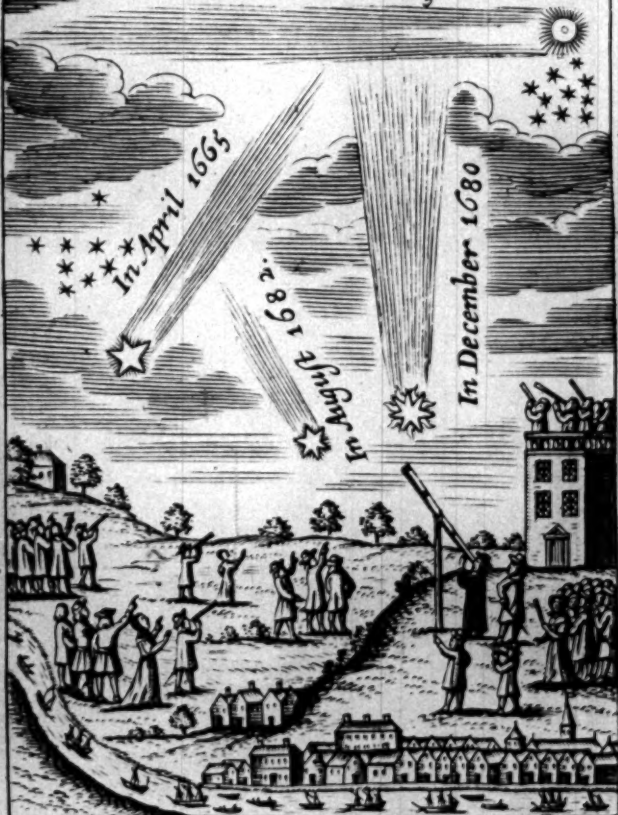


In December 1664



In Iannary 1664



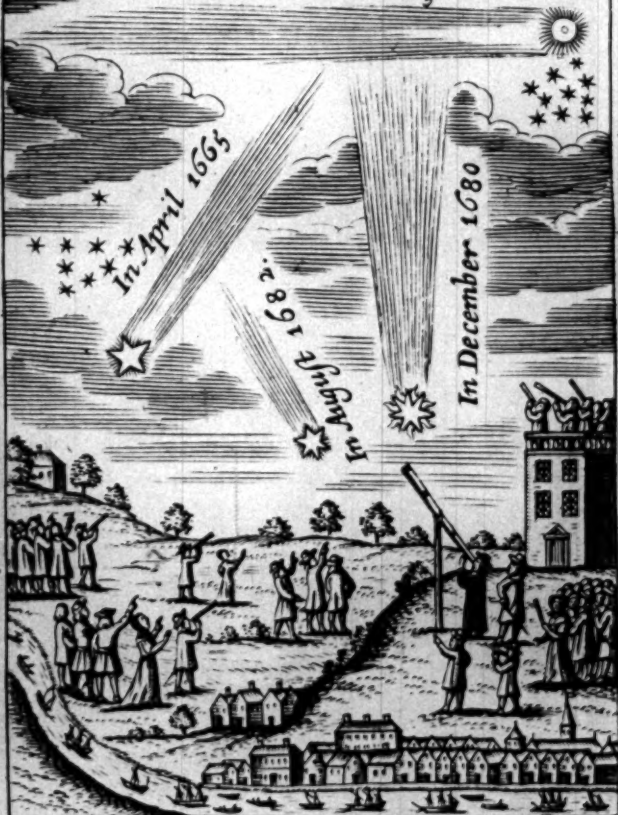
The Five Blazing Stars Seen in England
since the year 1663. Page 154. 160. 182. 188

London Printed for Nath: Crouch & Co

In December 1664



In Iannary 1664



The Five Blazing Stars Seen in England
since the year 1663. Page 154. 160. 182. 188

London Printed for Nath: Crouch & Co

THE SURPRIZING MIRACLES

OF

Nature and Art.

In TWO PARTS. Containing

- I. The Miracles of Nature, or the *Strange Signs and Prodigious Aspects and Appearances* in the *Heavens, the Earth, and the Waters* for many Hundred years past, with an Account of the most famous *Comets*, and other *Prodigies*, since the Birth of our Blessed Saviour, and the dreadful Effects of many of them: Also a particular Description of the five Blazing Stars seen in *England*, within Eighteen years last past, and aundance of other unaccountable *Accidents and Productions* of all kinds, till 1682.
- II. The Miracles of Art, describing the most *Magnificent Buildings*, and other *Curious Inventions* in all Ages, as *Solomon's Temple*, The *Seven Wonders of the World*, and many more Excellent Structures and Barities throughout the whole Earth. *Beautified with divers Sculptures of many Curiosities therein.*

By R. B. Author of the Hist. of the Wars of *England*; Remarks of *London*; Wonderful *Prodigies*; Admirable *Curiosities* in *England*; and Extraordinary Adventures of several famous Men.

London, Printed for Nath. Crouch, at the Bell next Kemp's Coffee-House in *Exchange-Alley*, over against the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhil*. 1683.

To the READER.

T Here is no Person of any Age or Understanding, but must needs acknowledge that the last Forty Years has been as it were an Age of Prodigies and Wonders in these three Kingdoms, so that it may be no former time can parallel so many strange Transactions as have happened in so little space, and therefore as an Ingenious Person says

A Book of Prodigies is fit
In times Prodigious to be writ.

And another Learned Author says, The wise Creator of Heaven and Earth is wont, when the measure of our wickedness comes to the height, rather to inflict upon us Temporal, than Eternal punishments, and to use for our Amendment the Occasion of these Natural Effects, thereby to affright us from the Terrour of those sights to a Repentance, and dutiful respect of him; And if we consult History, we shall find, that there hath never been any notable Apparition or Prodigy seen in the Heavens, but it hath been attended in the sequel with more than Ordinary Changes or Troubles here on Earth; Neither is

To the Reader.

there any one except he hath no Religion, who is not affrighted at Lightning, the clashing noise of Thunder, or an horrible Comet; For God speaks to men not only with the Tongues of men by Prophets, Apostles, and Teachers, but sometimes also by the Elements, and other Extraordinary signs in the Heavens, Earth, or Sea; Upon these Considerations this small Collection of the most remarkable Prodigies since the Creation cannot surely be unseasonable or ungrateful, but may by the Blessing of Heaven cause some Profligate Persons to forsake their evil ways, and thereby divert the just Judgments of the Almighty from being poured down upon this wicked and adulterous Generation. Here are also added many wonders of Art in the Magnificent Structures, and Curious Inventions of all Ages; and it is very apparent, that notwithstanding our high Conceits of the knowledge of this last Age, yet we are obliged to our Ancestors for many, if not most of our present useful and Profitable Arts and Sciences.

R. B.



The Surprizing Miracles of Nature in the Heavens, Earth, and Waters.

STrange and Wonderful have been the Miraculous Productions of Nature in all Ages, or rather of the God of Nature, and Divine Providence : *St. Austin*, that Famous and Reverend Father of the Church, defineth Miracles to be those things which happen beyond the Expectation, or thought of the Beholder, and begets in him a Miraculous Contemplation, yea, oftentimes horror and amazement ; whereof there are two kinds, True and False ; the false Miracles are such as are not really as they seem to be, but meerly acted by the Power of Nature, although obscure and hid ; The True are performed by the Power of God, above and beyond all the Faculties of created Nature, partly to procure Admiration, and partly to confirm the Faith of Men ; such were the bringing back of the shadow Ten Degrees in the Dial of *Ahaz*, for *Hezekiah* ; A Virgin to conceive with Child, and yet remain a Virgin : To draw water out of a hard Rock : To cause the Sea to divide asunder ; The Sun to stand still : To cause Manna to fall from Heaven : To turn Water into Wine ; and many of the like kind recorded in

2 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

the Holy Scriptures; And these were formerly used for the Confirming of the Faith both of *Jews* and *Christians*; but are not now necessary, since the Writings of the Prophets, Evangelists and Apostles are so generally preached unto all.

Yet hath not the Almighty left himself without Witness, nor mankind without warnings of approaching Judgments, and Desolations, by *Prodigious Signs*, and *Wonderful Appearances* in all times of the World; thereby if possible, to deter them from their Evil Practices, and to induce them to repentance and Reformation; of which the very Heathens were sensible, for we may find in the *Roman Histories*, that there never happened any Remarkable Prodigy, but the People of every Sex, Age, and Quality, flockt, and ran to their Temples and Altars, making Prayers, and offering Sacrifices to their Gods for appeasing, and pacifying their incensed Wrath; which may condemn the neglect and Contempt that is in those who pretend to own the true Christian Religion, and may teach us to repair to the true God, and implore his mercy and forbearance of pouring his Wrath upon us; In order whereunto it cannot surely be unseasonable, nor unprofitable to Collect out of very approved Authors, the most Remarkable Prodigies or Miracles that have appeared either in the Heavens, Earth, or Waters, for some Thousands of years in this Kingdom, and many other parts of the World; with the Tremendous Consequences that have succeeded divers of them, as to Wars, Fires, Famines, and other dreadful Calamities in several Nations; upon some of which the famous *Dubartas* thus Ingeniously Comments. page 14.

*Here in the night appears a flaming Spire,
There a fierce Dragon folded all in Fire;
Here a bright Comet, there a fiery Stream;
Here Flying Lances, there a burning Beam:*

Here

Here seems a Horned Goat environ'd round
With fiery flakes, about the Air to bound;
There with long bloody Hair, a Blazing-Star
Threatens the World with Famine, Plague and War.
To Princes Death; to Kingdoms many Crosses,
To all Estates, Inevitable Losses:
To Herdsmen Rot; To Ploughmen hapless seasons;
To Sayers storms; To Cities Civil Treasons.

I shall therefore proceed to give an Account of the most Famous, and surprizing Signs and Wonders which I find recorded in History.

I. In the time of the *Carthaginian War*, a River in *Italy* was observed for near the space of a day, to run perfect Blood; no accident that might cause it being perceived by any. In *Hetruria* the Heavens were seen to burn; In the City of *Arimini* 3 Moons were seen in one night by the Inhabitants; all these Prodigies appeared about the end of the first *Carthaginian War*; In the second War, after *Hanno* was overcome by *Scipio*, a Child of a Month old was heard to cry in the Street, *Triumph, Triumph*: In the Fields, near *Rome*, Ships were discerned in the Sky, and Men in long White Garments were perceived to march towards each other, but never to meet: It likewise rained Stones, and the Sun and Moon were seen as it were to juffle each other; and in the day, two Moons appeared in the Heavens; At *Phalascis* the Heavens seemed to be rent in sunder, and at *Capua* the Moon seemed to burn, and to bend down towards the Earth; A Green Palm-Tree in *Naples* took Fire, and burned away to Ashes; At *Mantua* a little Rivulet was turned into blood, and at *Rome* it rained blood: An Ox was likewise heard to speak these Words, *Cave tibi Roma; Rome look to thy self*. Soon after, several large, tall Ships appeared upon the River of *Taracina* in *Spain*; The Sun at divers times appeared of a bloody colour, many Temples and Houses in *Rome* were beaten down with Thunderbolts from Heaven, some of the Cities

4 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

Ensigns, or Field-Colours were observed to sweat Blood; Two Suns appeared in the Heavens, at one time; It likewise rained Milk and Stones: A Comet in the form of a burning Torch was discerned to reach from the East to the West. In the *Vulturnian* Fields the Earth rent asunder in such huge and frightful breaches, that Trees, and whole Houses were swallowed up in it, and it rained blood for two whole days together, about which time *Hannibal* received that notable overthrow by *Scipio*, which was the destruction of the famous City of *Carthage*, and the Conquest of that Countrey to the *Romans*. *Tit. Liv. Hist.*

II. In the year of the World 3417, when *Cyrus* overcame *Cresus*, King of the *Lydians* in Battel, a Child of six Months old is said to have distinctly foretold in a Prodigious and wonderful manner, *That his Kingdom should be lost*. A Dog and a Serpent spake very plainly and articulately to King *Tarquinus*, of which *Sir G. Wharton* writes thus.

*When Romes perverse and giddy multitude
Dissolved in Tarquin, their Great Monarchy,
To doom the Act unnatural and Rude;
'Tis said, a Serpent bark'd ———*

In the year of the World 3842, at *Veios* in *Italy*, it rained Oyl extreamly, and Wool was also rained out of the Clouds; In the year that the Great *Mithridates* K. of *Pontus* was born, there appeared a huge Comet, which at first seemed but small, but afterwards spread it self so much that it came as far as the Equinoctial Line, so that its extent equalized that Region of the Heavens, which we call the Milky Way; Another Comet likewise appeared in the first year of his Reign, which shined so bright night and day for 70 days together, that the whole Heavens seemed all to be on a light fire; for the Tayl of it covered the fourth part of the Heavens, and exceeded the Sun in brightness, and also its rising and setting took up the space of four hours. Just before the taking of *Aristonicus*, a dangerous Enemy to the *Romans*, news was brought
to

to Rome that the Image of *Apollo* at *Cuma* had wept for 4 days together ; The Southsayers were so astonished at the Prodigy, that they had thrown the Image into the Sea, had not the old men at *Cuma* interceded for it ; but the more expert Astrologers said, *That thereby the Destruction of Greece was foretold, from whence that Image was brought.* *Junius Syllanus* going Proconsul into *Asia*, he with his Company saw a spark fall from a Star, which increased in Bulk as it came nearer the Earth, and being grown to the bigness of the Moon, it gave as much light as if it had been a cloudy day, and when it drew up towards Heaven again, it grew into the fashion of a Lamp ; When *Julius Caesar* had crosst the River of *Rubicon*, contrary to the Decree of the Senate, the Heavens, as foreseeing what miseries were to ensue thereupon, rained blood, and there happened a horrible Eclipse of the Sun of 10 parts and an half, of which *Lucan* thus speaks.

———— The Sun hides
(When mounted in the midst of Heaven he rides)
In Clouds his burning Chariot, to enfold
The World in darkness quite ; Day to behold
No Nation hopes. ———

The same day that the Battle between *Caesar* and *Pompey* was fought in the *Pharsalian* Fields, the Image of Victory which stood in the Temple of *Minerva* at *Eulide*, was seen to turn its face toward the Temple-door, whereas before it looked to the Altar ; At *Antioch* in *Syria*, such great noises, and Clamours were heard twice a-day about the Walls of the Town, that the People affrighted with the supposed approach of the Enemy, ran out of the City in their Arms ; In the Temples of *Ptolemais*, Organs, and other Instruments were heard to play of themselves, before *Julius Caesar* was slain in the Senate House ; and there being a Colony sent to be planted in *Capua*, according to the *Julian Law*, and some Monuments being demolished to lay Foundations for New Houses ; In the Tomb of *Capys*, who was said to be the Founder of *Capua*, there was

6 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.*

found a brazen Table, wherein was ingraven in Greek Letters, *That whensoever the bones of Capys should be uncovered one of the Julian Family should be slain by the hands of his own Party, and that his blood should be revenged to the great damage of all Italy*; At the same time also those Horses, which *Cæsar* had consecrated to *Mars*, after his passage over *Rubicon*, did abstain from all kind of Food, and were observed to have drops falling from their Eyes, after such a manner, as if they had shed Tears. Also the Bird *Regulus*, having a little branch of Lawrel in her Mouth, flew with it into *Pompys* Court, where she was torn in pieces by divers other Birds that pursued her, where also *Cæsar* himself was soon after slain with Twenty three wounds, by *Brutus*, *Cassius*, and others. Shortly after his Death about the time of the banishment of *Antoni-us* and *Lepidus*, an Ox being led out to the Plough, uttered these words to his Master, *Why urge you me to work, we shall want no Corn, but men*: And a new Born Child did speak. *A. B. U. lers Annals. Pearson's Varieties.*

III. About the time that our Lord and Saviour was born, which was in the year of the World, 3849, and the 43 year of the Reign of *Augustus Cæsar*, many wonderful, and remarkable Prodigies shewed themselves in the Heavens; and this more frequently than in former years, as *Josaphus* in his Jewish Antiquities testifies; which unusual sights occasioned the *Magi*, or Wise Men of those times, in their Predictions to conclude, *That some more than Ordinary Person would arise, or appear in the World*: Which presages some Learned Persons applied to *Augustus Cæsar*, who then reigned prosperously; But the more divinely inspired, interpreted them to signify him, who (as the Prophet *Isaiah* saith) *should have his Government upon his shoulders*, Even the Saviour of the whole World; for besides what the Evangelists mention, as of the Angel appearing to the Shepherds, and that Star which directed the wise men of the East to find out the place of his Birth, so that

in the Heavens, Earth and Waters. 7

*As the Earth with a New Sun was blest,
So th' Heavens with a New Star is drest.*

It is likewise recorded by *Paul Horatius*, and *Entropius*, Secretaries to *Augustus*, and likewise by *Eusebius*, That at the time that *Jesus Christ* was born, it happened in *Rome*, that in a publick Inn was discovered, and broke forth a Fountain of pure Oil, which for the space of a whole day continually issued out in great abundance, and that at high Noon, in a clear and fair day, a Circle was seen about the Sun, as shining and resplendent as the Sun it self; About the same time, the Senate and People of *Rome* offered to *Augustus* the Title of Lord, which he refused, and would not accept of, unknowingly prognosticating that a greater Lord than he, was upon Earth, to whom that Title belonged; *Cornelius* in his Scholastick History affirms, That the same day of the Birth of Christ, the Temple in *Rome* dedicated by the *Romans* to the Goddess *Pax*, fell to the Earth ruined; adding that when it was first built by the *Romans*, they addressed to the Oracle of *Apollo*, to know how long time it should endure, who returned answer, *Even until a Virgin should bring forth a Child*; which they judged impossible, and that therefore their Temple should last Eternally, nevertheless at the Virgins bearing a Child, (even the King of Heaven) it fell to the Earth. *Lucas de Thy* in his Chronicle of *Spain* writes, That he hath found in the Ancient Histories of that Countrey, That by Computation of time; the same night wherein our Saviour was born, there appeared in *Spain* at mid-night a Cloud, which gave so great a Light, that it seemed like mid-day. I remember also (saith my Author) I have read in *St. Jerom*, That when the Virgin fled with her Son into *Egypt*, all the Idols and Images of the Gods which were there, tumbled from their Altars to the Ground; And that the Oracles and Answers which these Gods (or rather Devils) used to give

8 The Surprizing Miracles of Nature

give to such questions as were propounded to them, then ceased, and never answered afterwards: *Ravities of the Creation.* p. 84.

IV. About the first year after the Birth of Christ, there were many Prodigious Births in *Germany*; Armies in the Air were seen at *Rome*; A terrible Eclipse of the Sun, and dreadful storms of Hail and Rain. Soon after, *Tiberius* obtains a Victory in *Germany*, and subdues the *Lombards*; The *Pannonians* Rebel: A very great Famine in *Rome*: *Varus* is defeated, and killeth himself. About the Twelfth year there was a great Earthquake in *Cyprus*, which overthrew many Cities: Jesus Christ disputes with the Doctors, a great and terrible Comet then seen; The Light of the Sun was seen apparently to fail; The Heavens seemed to burn: Fiery beams fell from Heaven; Bloody Comets seen in other places: The River *Tiber* overfloweth *Rome*, 13 Cities in *Africa* destroyed with an Earthquake; Noysome Flies come in great Swarms and Companies into *Germany*; The Effects whereof were judged to be, that a while after *Athenus*, a great Commander was slain by the fall of an Horse, *Caligula* that Monster of Mankind was born, King *Agrippa* was slain, and *Julia* Daughter of the Emperor *Augustus* was starved to Death; *Cesar* dyeth; The *Brittains* are subdued, In his 22 year Blood rained in *Rome*; Great Flocks of Grasshoppers; Armies seen fighting in the Air in *Rome* and *Poland*; Fiery Torches, a blazing Star like a Sword; soon after, *Pompeys* Theatre was burned: *Sejanus*, chief Favourite to the Emperour *Tiberius*, is executed for Ambition, his Son strangled, his Daughter first deflowered by the Hangman, and then put to Death; *Drusus* the Emperors Son is poisoned; The *Arabians* defeat *Herod*; the City of *Tiberias* is drowned, *Tiberius* turned Tyrant, and commits all manner of horrid Cruelties upon the *Romans*. *Natura Prodig.* p. 43.

V. In the Thirty Fourth year of our Blessed Saviours Life, he was crucified by the wicked hands of the *Jews*, which produced prodigious Effects, that were

were afterward attested as well by Heathens, as Christians; at the time of his Death a very great darkness happened in the day time, which continued from six a Clock, till nine; and yet there was no Eclipse of the Sun, for it was at a full Moon, so that it was miraculous, and contrary to the Order of Nature, and only by the power of God, who deprived the Sun of its light for that space of time; And therefore *Dennis the Areopagite*, being that day in *Athens*, and seeing the Sun so darkened, and also knowing as a man learned in *Astrology*, and the course of the Heavens, that such an Eclipse must needs be contrary to the Rule of Nature, spake with a loud voice, saying, *Either the World is at an end, or the God of Nature suffers*: and upon this Account (say some Authors) the Wise Men of *Athens* being astonished at this Prodigy, they presently caused an Altar to be built to the *Unknown God*, after which *St. Paul* coming thither, reprov'd them for it, declaring to them, that *Jesus Christ*, the Redeemer of the World, who had suffered, was that Unknown God, whereby he Converted many of them to the Christian Faith; which doth also demonstrate that the darkness was over the whole Hemisphere, since it was seen at *Athens*, and other places far remote from *Jerusalem*; Yea the Moon being then at full, and having no light, but what she hath from the splendour of the Sun, and being then in the Firmament that is under us, she came to be violently eclipsed and darkned, so that the darkness was universal over all the World, because the Moon and Stars can give no light, unless they receive it first from the Sun.

It was likewise very observable, and is acknowledged by the famous Historian *Plutarch*, though a Heathen, that after the Death of Christ, not only the Oracles of *Egypt*, but throughout the World ceased, of which he can give no reason, (being ignorant of Christianity) but that there were some Devils or Demons dead; However it was very remarkable, that Satan should so plainly

10. *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.*

plainly demonstrate himself to be subdued and overcome, immediately after the Death of our Saviour, that he could never after give any answers. The Words of *Plutarch* to *Emilius* the Orator, a prudent, and humble man concerning this matter (of which *Eusebius* writ to *Theodorus* as a thing of great note) are as followeth, That his Father coming one time by Sea toward Italy, and coasting by night about an Island not inhabited, called *Paraxis*, when all in the Ship were silent and at rest, they heard a great and fearful voice which came from that Island, that called upon *Alaman*, who was Pilot of the Ship, and an Egyptian born, now though this voice was heard once or twice by *Alaman* and others, yet no man had the Courage to answer, till at the third Call, he answered, Who is there, who is it that calls, and what would you have? Then the voice spake more high and loud, and said to him, *Alaman*, I require that when you pass near the Gulf of *Laguna*, you remember to cry out aloud, and make them to understand that the Great God *Pan* is dead; At these Words all that were in the Ship were much astonished, and at last after Consultation concluded, that the Pilot should take no notice of the voice, nor stay in the Gulf to utter such words, if they could possibly go beyond it; but go on in their Voyage; But coming to the place which the voice had mentioned, the ship stood still, and the Sea was calm without wind, so that they could sail no farther, whereupon they all resolved that *Alaman* should perform his Ambassage, and so he placed himself in the Poop of the Ship, and cried out as loud as he could, saying; Be it known unto you that the Great God *Pan* is dead; He had no sooner uttered these words, but there were so many mournful cries, groans, and woful Lamentations that all the Air resounded again therewith; these Complaints continued for some time, and extremely surprized those in the Ship; but having afterward a prosperous Gale, they followed on their Course, and being arrived at *Rome*, told of this Adventure, which coming to the Ears of *Tiberius*, the Emperor desired to be informed of the Truth thereof, and had the former particulars fully confirmed

to him; whereby it is evident, that the Devils in all parts were chased and banished from the World by the death of the Blessed Jesus, and it is to be supposed that this Great God *Pan* is not to be restrained only to the *God of the Shepherds*, but was rather some great Master Devil, who had now lost his power and Empire, as the others had before. In the days of the aforesaid *Tiberius*, the Emperor, *Publius Lentulus* being at that time President in *Judea*, writ an Epistle sometime before this to the Senate of *Rome*, which was as followeth.

There appeared in these our days a man of great Virtue called *Jesus Christ*, who is yet living amongst us, and of the People is accepted for a Prophet, but his own Disciples call him the Son of God; He raiseth the Dead, and cureth all manner of Diseases; A man of stature somewhat tall, and comely, with a very reverend Countenance, such as the Beholders may both Fear and Love; His Hair is of the Colour of a Chesnut full ripe, and plain almost down to his ears, but from the ears downward, somewhat curled, and more Orient of colour, waving about his shoulders: In the midst of his head goeth a seam, or partition of his Hair after the manner of the *Nazarites*: His forehead very plain and smooth; His Face without spot or wrinkle, beautified with a comely red; His Nose and Mouth so formed, that nothing can be reprehended; His Beard somewhat thick, agreeable in colour to the Hair of his Head, not of any great length, but forked in the midst; of an Innocent look, his Eyes grey, clear, and quick: In reprovng he is severe, in admonishing, courteous, and fairspoken; pleasant in speech, mixt with gravity; It cannot be remembred that any have seen him laugh, but many have seen him weep; in proportion of Body well shaped and streight; his hands and Arms very delectable to behold; in speaking, very temperate, modest and wise; A man for his singular beauty, exceeding the Children of men.

Josephus likewise, a Jew by Nation and descent, in his Antiquities hath these words; In these very times lived *Jesus*, a very wise man, if it be lawfull to call him a Man, because in truth he did marvellous things; and was
Master

12 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

Master and Tutor to them that loved him, and sought the Truth; The Jews and Gentiles Assembled unto him, and followed him in great Companies; And though he was afterward accused by some of the Chief of our Religion, and crucified, yet he was not forsaken by those who before followed him; and three days after his death he appear'd alive unto them, according as the Prophets inspired by God, had foretold and prophecied of him; And now even in our time the Doctrine and the name of Christians continues, and is spread over all the World; These are the words of Josephus who writ of the destruction of Jerusalem, as an eye-witness, which happened forty years after the Death of Christ. Josephus Antiquit.

VI. In the 39 year, after the birth of our Saviour, a very great Light was seen in the Heavens, and a voice encountred Saul going to Damascus (to persecute the Christians with all severity) which said unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me, &c. This Prodigy was the Forerunner of St. Paul's Conversion; At this time that Tyrannical Emperor Caligula, commanded himself to be worshipp'd as a God, and executed divers Roman Knights and Gentlemen for refusing it. In 47. The Heavens seem'd wonderfully to burn, and a Comet of a very great magnitude appeared for many days together; Lightning fell from Heaven upon the Standards of the Prætorian Souldiers; soon after Vespasian goeth into Brittain, and taketh the Isle of Wight; The Romans overcome the Picts in Scotland; Herod dyeth; Twenty Thousand Jews are slain between the Gates of the Temple; Messalina the Empress forces Silvis to put away his Wife, and then is married to him, but they were both slain. In 50. A Phoenix was seen in Egypt, and an Island of thirty Furlongs in length appeared in the Sea, which was never before seen; Three Suns appeared at one time in Rome; and in and about the Coasts of England, for certain days the Sea seem'd as blood; A Comet of a very great magnitude appeared for a long time together in Italy; The Effects were, a very great Famine
in

in Rome; Domitian the Roman Tyrant born, The whole Countrey of Trevers in Germany is wasted by Clodomore; The Emperor Claudius is poysoned by Agrippina; Three thousand Romans are defeated in Scotland, Agrippa poysoneth Syllanus, also Narcissus for seventeen Millions of Money, and likewise poysoneth Britannicus: Nero begins his Acts of Villany; Cartismunda, Queen in Brittain rejects Venutius her Husband; he makes War against her, the King of Scots takes her, and buries her alive. In 59. There was a terrible Eclipse of the Sun, so that the Stars were seen; Nero's Supper was burnt with Lightning; an Earthquake happened at Rome, and the Sun was Eclipsed again, and again, that is three times visibly in 3 years; Many Jews perish in Cesaria; Nero commits Incest with his Mother, The Britains slay Seventy Thousand of the Romans, and Suetonius destroys Fourscore Thousand Britains, as he comes from the Isle of Anglesey; St. Mark writes his Gospel.

In 63. A great Comet appears, There was a very great Inundation in England; The Ocean seemed to be blood; A Prodigious Accident was seen at Colchester in England, where the Image of Victory turned backward of it self; An Earthquake in Asia; A Comet appeared six Moneths, and three Suns together; Rome is fired by the Command of Nero, who rejoyces in that Villany, playing upon his Harp, and singing the Destruction of Troy; This year the Jews rebel against the Romans, and many of them were slain, Gassius Florus being killed by them. Boadicia Queen of the Britains being assisted by Corbred King of Scots, killeth Seventy Thousand Romans. *Natura Prodig.* p. 46.

VII. In the Sixty Seventh year after the Birth of our Saviour, and about the Fortieth after, the Jews had with cruel hands crucified the Lord of Life, that innocent blood which they desired might fall upon them and their Children, began to be revenged upon them; for soon after the Romans came, and burnt

14 *The Surprising Miracles of Nature*

burnt down, and destroyed the City and Temple of *Jerusalem*, and kil'd multitudes of them, as by the sequel will appear ; but before these woful Desolations happened, there wanted not Prodigious Signs, and warnings from Heaven of their Approaching Miseries : For the year before *Vespasian* came against them, there was seen a Star over the Temple so bright, as if a man had held many drawn swords in his hand ; And at the same time which was the Passover, that whole night the Temple was light and clear as at Noon-day, and continued so seven nights together ; which wise men understood to be a very ill Prognostick, though others thought it good. A Sword, and other Instruments of War were seen hanging in the Air directly over the City, very dreadful to behold. The same time likewise they brought a Heifer for a Sacrifice, which when she was knocked down, she calved a Lamb ; besides there was a certain Gate, called the *East-gate*, which could never be opened or shut without the help of Twenty men, and the creaking of the hinges might be heard afar off ; This Gate was found open without any mans help, and they could not shut it, till a great number joyned their strength ; Moreover there was discerned on the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, or *Holies of Holies*, a whole night long the face of a man very terrible. There appeared also at the same time four Chariots with Horsemen fighting fiercely against each other, and great Blasts of Fire in the sky coming toward *Jerusalem* ; In the Feast of weeks the Priests heard a man walking in the Temple, and saying with a wonderful terrible voice ; *Come let us go away out of this Temple ; let us make haste away from hence ;* At that time also there was this writing found graven on an old Stone, *At what time the building of the Temple shall be brought to a four square, then it shall be destroyed ;* Now when the Temple was besieged, and the Walls bruised, the *Jews* making haste to repair the Ruins, without remembrance of the old writing, they made the Temple four square ; These words were likewise found in
the

the Walls of the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, When the whole building of the Temple shall be four square, then shall a King reign over Israel, and that King and Ruler shall reign over all the Land of Israel: Some interpreted this of the King of Israel, but the Priests said, it was meant of the King of the Romans.

These were the dreadful Presages of their ensuing Calamities, which never ended till the whole People were almost utterly destroyed, and they ceased to be any more a Nation, which sad Judgment remains upon them to this day, and whereof I shall here give a brief Account; The beginning of their troubles happened in the time of King Agrippa, during whose Reign, the Wars began between the Jews and Romans which never ceased, till the people of Judea were led captive into the Provinces of the Romans, and the Temple was made desolate, the rise whereof was on this occasion. In the Twentieth year of his Reign the ninth day of the First Moneth, which is July, Nero, Emperor of Rome sent a Present for a Burnt Offering to be offered at the Temple of Jerusalem, requiring peace of the Elders of Judea and Jerusalem, and that they would enter into League with him, saying, My request is that you would offer my Present to the Lord your God, for his service and Religion pleaseth me very well; therefore I desire you to joyn in Friendship with me, according as you have done with the Emperors of Rome, my Predecessors in time past; I have heard what Cassius the Captain of mine Army hath done to you, which displeaseth me out of measure, wherefore I assure unto you a faithful League, by the Consent and Counsel of the Senate of Rome, that hereafter there shall never any Roman Captain stir hand or foot against you, but rather your Magistrates, Rulers, and Judges, shall be all Jews, and of Jerusalem; Yea Agrippa your King shall be Lord of all your Rulers, and what he commands, you shall do it; the Romans shall only be called your Lords, and shall have no more to do with you.

When these Embassadors came to Jerusalem, they delivered their Message to Anani the Priest, and placed

16 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.*

Nero's present before him, which was, a Bull for a Burnt-Offering, with a Crown of Gold upon his head, his Horns were also covered with Gold; upon his Body was a Cloth of Purple, adorned with precious Stones, before him some Persons carried Ten Talents of Gold, and behind a great number of Sheep followed for *Peace-Offerings*; But when Eleazar the Son of Anani heard of it, he came and turned Nero's Presents out of the Temple, saying, *We will not prophane and unhallow the Sanctuary of our Lord with the Offerings of Strangers; for God will not accept either their Burnt-Offerings, or Place-Offerings.* When he had thus spoke, he sounded a Trumpet, and set his Men in Array against the Guards of the Romans who were quartered in Jerusalem, and falling suddenly upon them, slew many of them that day, with one of their Captains, and took another of them alive, who being a Valiant man, and seeing himself overpowred by the Jews, he cryed out, *save my Life, and I will yield*; upon which Eleazar the Rebel swore, *That he would not kill him, but spare him for his valour*, he having slain many of the Jews in the Conflict, whereupon the Captain yielded himself Prisoner; Then said Eleazar to him; *Even as thy sword hath made many Women Childless, so shall thy Mother be made childless of thee above all others*; and thereupon, contrary to his Outh, he commanded his Servants to kill him; King Agrippa seeing this, was extreamly troubled, and therefore as he stood in the street, cryed out, *O thou Rebel Eleazar, I pray God that this mischief, of which thou art the cause, and thy wickedness may fall upon thee, and thy Fathers House, which when it cometh to pass, we shall not be disturbed thereat*; It seems hard to keep Peace and Tranquillity in thy days, for they are not like to be continued by thee; *How long wilt thou go on to bring us into Bryers, thou Enemy and hater of the Lord? Why dost thou destroy and wast the Vineyard of the Lord God of Hosts.*

To whom Eleazar replied, *Why takest thou upon thee the Name of King? If thou be a King, why dost not thou*
con-

command us to be punished? Where be thy valiant Souldiers? Let us see them? Come thou and they together and chasten us, that it may appear whether thou indeed be a King or no; Thou standest afar off, and when thou speakest, thy Feet are ready to run away, as if a Dog should set himself against an armed Man, and bark at him, lolling out his Tongue. And upon this he winked upon the Rebels his Companions to seize upon Agrippa, which was observed by a spy appointed by the King for that purpose, who laying his hand upon his head, gave a sign to the King to flee away immediately, or else, the Seditious would destroy both him and them together; Agrippa perceiving this, got away with all speed, the Rebels pursuing him, but in vain; for he got into Japho a Town under the Romans, where he was in safety; from thence he went to Rome, and gave an account to Nero both of the sedition, and the slighting of his Offering; whereupon Nero joyned him with Cassius to command a great Army, wherewith they entred Judea, and won many walled Towns; and rased Japho, least it should fall into the hands of the Enemy; After this they marched toward Jerusalem, designing utterly to destroy the Rebels; which Eltafer, and other Priests having notice of, they issued out against them, and found them incamped in the way between Jerusalem and Japho, where many of the Jews were slain by the Romans, and the residue Cassius and Agrippa put to flight, and following the Chase to the Gates of Jerusalem, besieged the City three days; The Fourth day the Priests and People issued out suddenly, and unawares, upon the Camp of the Romans, and slew five Thousand Footmen, and a Thousand Horsemen, Cassius perceiving that neither he nor his could escape, chose out Forty Thousand of his best Souldiers, and placed them between his Camp, and the Priests, commanding them to stand all the night sounding their Trumpets, and making of Fires, and not to remove out of their places till the morning, that hereby, he and Agrippa might escape; The Jews hearkning to the

18 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

the sound of the Trumpets, and not understanding the meaning, did not pursue the *Romans*, but perceiving in the morning they were gone toward *Cæsarea* three days Journey off, *Eleasar* with the People followed, and found the *Roman* baggage strowed in the way, that they had thrown away to escape the lighter, which they let alone, and pursued them to the Gates of *Cæsarea*.

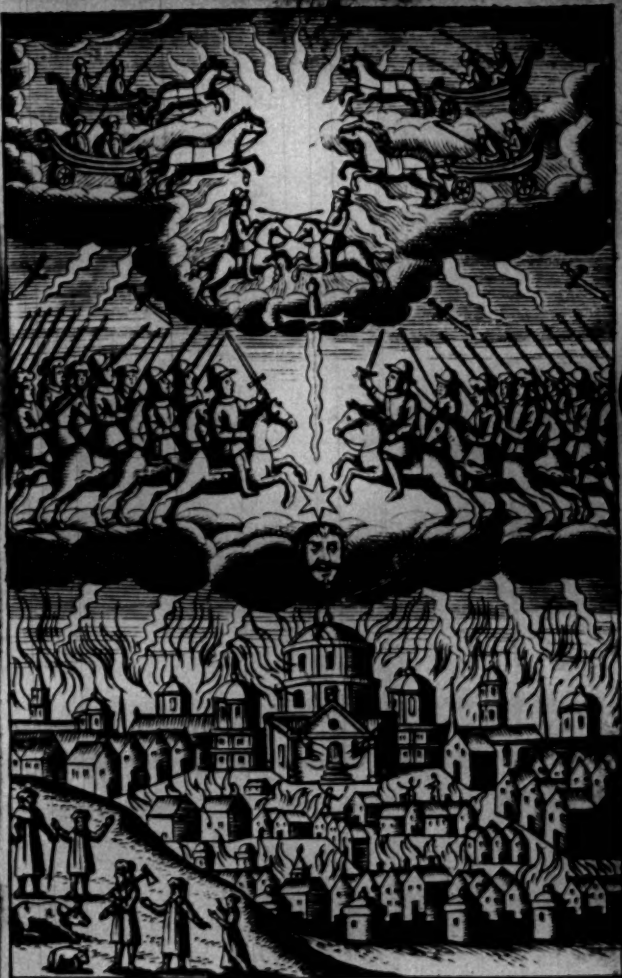
But *Cassius* and *Agrippa* got safe into the Town, from whence they went together to *Rome*, and gave an Account of their ill success to *Nero*, who soon after sent *Vespasian*, and his Son *Titus* to revenge the *Romans* on the *Jews*, commanding them to rase their walled Cities, and destroy whatever they found, without sparing either Man, Woman, Child, Infants, sucking Babes, or Old Folks, but to slay all; The *Jews* having Intelligence of this, chose out three Captains, *Josephus* the writer of this History, *Anani* and *Eleasar* his Son, to be their Captains, *Vespasian* first invaded *Galilee*, which being the lot that fell to *Joseph* to defend, he departed from *Jerusalem* thither, and built up the Towns that were destroyed, repairing the Walls, Gates, Bars, and Pallaces; ordaining also Captains over the People to lead and govern them, some of Thousands, and some of Hundreds, &c. He instructed the People also in the Feats of War, and chusing out Threescore Thousand Footmen, and some Horsemen, he marched to the Cities of *Agrippa* that were in *Judea*, because he joyned with the *Romans* with all the power he could make; *Joseph* therefore first approached *Tiara*, a great City that belonged to *Agrippa*, where his Treasure, and Ammunition, and all his Jewels were, and offered Peace to the Inhabitants upon Condition they would open their Gates, and deliver him all the Riches and Treasures of *Agrippa*, which if they would do, they should be safe in their Persons and Estates; upon these Conditions they opened the Gates, and *Joseph* commanded about Six Hundred Wicked Persons in the Town to be

be laid in Irons, and others who had aided *Vespasian* to be put to the Sword ; But the chief Governour of the Town he apprehended alive, and carrying him out of the City, commanded one of the Souldiers to cut off his hands ; The Governour then besought *Joseph* saying, *I beseech thee my Lord let one of my hands only be cut off, and spare the other ;* At which *Joseph* and his Souldiers laughed him to scorn, not judging him a man of courage ; *Joseph* then bid them give him his sword in his own hands, and to let him cut off which hand he would ; The Roman Captain took the Sword, and cut off his left hand, leaving himself the Right, and so he was let go, who went presently to the Camp of *Vespasian*, declaring what shame was done unto him.

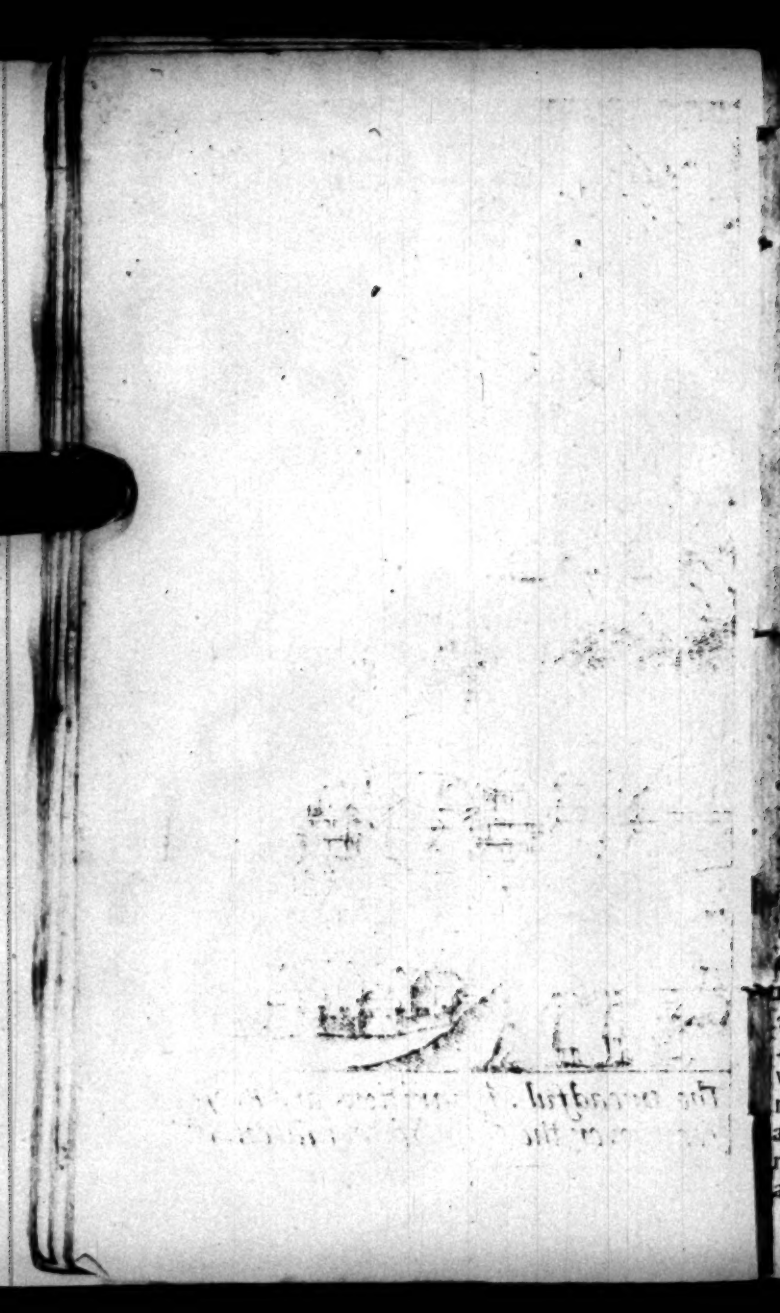
After this the City of *Zippory* made a League with *Vespasian*, of which *Joseph* being certified, he marched thither with his Army, but the Town endured the assault, so that *Joseph* could not prevail against it, and therefore besieged it a long while ; In the mean time *Askalon* revolted from the *Jews* to the *Romans*, which was thereupon besieged by some *Jews* from *Jerusalem* ; but *Antonius* a Roman Captain issuing out one morning before day, fell upon the *Jewish* Camp, and before day light, had slain above Ten Thousand *Jews* ; soon after those of *Jerusalem* sent Eighteen Thousand Men more to *Askalon* to bury the bodies of the *Jews* that that were slain, which they did without the least opposition of the *Romans*, who kept themselves within the Town for fear of them ; Then *Joseph* gathering all his Forces together, assaulted *Askalon* with his whole Army, and won it, slaying afterward *Anthony* and all his People with the Sword, so that few or none escaped ; He likewise burnt all the Villages and Hamlets about the Town, and in all other Places which had entred League with the *Romans*, he slew both *Jews* and *Romans*, and burnt their Houses to the ground ; This done *Joseph* returned again to *Zippory*, fought with them, and conquered them, burning their Cities and Villages, and leading their Wives and Children

deen Prisoners to Jerusalem, and all the Romans he found there, he put them to death. Of which Transactions, when *Vespasian* and *Titus* had an Account, they were very much enraged, and therefore marching to *Acho*, where *K. Agrippa* then was with Forty Thousand stout Souldiers; they joyned with them, being likewise assisted with very great Numbers of Men out of all the Nations round about Jerusalem; with this vast Army they went from *Acho* to *Galilee*, and pitched their Tents in the Mount; which *Joseph* hearing, issued out of *Zippory* with all his Army, set upon them, and slew a multitude of them; *Vespasian* and *Titus* studying revenge, resolved to surprize *Joseph*, and beset all the passages to that purpose, which *Joseph* understanding, left *Zippory*, and went to *Tiberias*, whither *Vespasian* followed; *Joseph* perceiving them coming, fled from thence to *Jorpat*, the biggest City in *Galilee*, closed up the Gates, and there remained with his Army.

Then *Vespasian* sent several Noblemen as Embassadors to *Joseph*, who thus addressed themselves to him; *Vespasian*, General of the Roman Army sends to know what it will avail you to be thus blockt up in a walled Town, he desires rather that you would come forth, and treat peaceably with him, and enter into a League together, for it will be for your benefit to serve *Cæsar* Emperor of Rome, whereby you may live, and not be destroyed, nor any of your People; Then *Joseph* sent Embassadors to *Vespasian*, desiring Truce for a few days, to consult with the People about this matter; which he agreed to, and *Joseph* sent to the chief Priests and Rulers of Jerusalem, and the rest of the People the following Letter; *Ye shall understand Brethren, that Vespasian General of the Romans, sent his Ambassadors unto me, inquiring what it would avail me to be obstinate against them, and not rather to come forth and treat of Peace, and to joyn in League together, that we may serve the Emperor of the Romans, so that we may save our lives, and not be destroyed; And I beseech ye, why will you lose your lives, with the lives of your Wives, your Sons, and your Daughters? Why will you all fall together on the sword,*
where-



*The Dreadful Apparitions and Presages
Seen. over the City of Ierusalem Page. 14*



whereby those that shall be left alive among you, shall be led Captive out of your Countrey to a People which they never knew, and whose Language they understand not; and likewise your Countrey shall be made desolate, your Sanctuary laid waste, so that there shall not be so much as one man to enter into it; Never suffer this you that are wise men, but rather receive my Counsel, and come hither to us, that we may consult together, what conditions of Peace we shall make for the safety of our Lives, rather than be destroyed, and that we may enjoy the blessings of our Countrey and live at peace therein, for Life and quietness is to be preferred before Death and Banishment.

But the Inhabitants of Jerusalem, with the Priests, Elders, and Noblemen of Judea, and the rest of the People, returned this answer to Joseph; Take heed to thyself that thou never consent to receive Conditions of peace from the Romans, but be strong to fight, till such time as thou shalt consume them, or till thou, and all the People dye in Battel, and so shalt thou fight the Battels of the Lord for his people and his Sanctuary, and the Cities of our God, in the mean season let it be as it will, but let not thy power be with them. When Joseph heard this Resolution of the People for continuance of the War, he was exceeding angry, and in great fury fell upon the Roman Army with all his Forces; in which skirmish, very many of the Jews were slain, and from that day forward Vespasian began more fiercely to War upon the Jews; He marched thence to Gerara a great City in the higher Galilee, which he besieged, took, and raised to the Ground, slaying all the people, Men, Women, and Children; Oxen, Sheep, Camels and Asses, leaving nothing alive, and then said, Now I begin to be revenged for the Romans which the Jews murdered in the Land of Judea; From thence he came to Jorpat, where Joseph was; The first day he incamped about it, refreshing his Souldiers with plenty of meat and drink, and then furnished every man with Arms; The next morning early, the Roman Army gave a great shout, and beset the City round about on every side, Joseph

B

stand.

22 *The surprizing Miracles of Nature*

standing upon an high Tower, beheld the mighty Army of the *Romans*, and thereupon founding a Trumpet, gave a sign to the Battle, issuing out with the whole power of the *Jews* upon the *Roman* Camp, at the foot of the Hill; and maintaining the Fight from morning till night, at which time it being dark, the *Jews* retreated into the Town, and the *Romans* to their Camp; the next day the Fight was renewed, and so the third and fourth day, wherein many were destroyed on both sides; For the *Romans* advanced confidently, and stoutly to the Battel, boastingly saying, *We will quickly vanquish this little Nation, as we have subdued all others against whom we have fought, and they shall trouble us no more, and then shall we be at rest*; The *Jews* likewise on the other side encouraged themselves against the *Romans*, saying, *At this time we will all dye together for the Zeal to the Sanctuary of our God, and will never suffer these unclean Persons to pollute it, and having once destroyed them, we shall be quiet ever after*. So that what with the Pride of the *Romans* on the one side, and the stiff-necked stubbornness of the *Jews* on the other, much people perished of either Party.

At this time the *Jews* who dwelt about *Jorpat*a, fled to the Camp of *Vespasian*, and joyned with the *Romans*, and alwaies when *Joseph* skirmished with *Vespasian* without the City, *Vespasian* sent a Party to assault the City, so that *Joseph* and his Men fought with *Vespasian* without the Town, and the *Jews* within defended the Walls against the *Romans*, but those within dayly diminished, and the chiefest of *Josephs* Army were slain, except some few with whom *Joseph* fled, and recovered the Town, and stopped up the Gates after him; But *Vespasian* having a long time besieged *Jorpat*a, he at length espied a Conduit of sweet Water without the Walls, which ran into the City, the Citizens drinking thereof because it was good, this he cut off, whereby the Inhabitants were destitute of drink, having only Well-water, which *Joseph* perceiving, and judging that the *Romans* would now think they might take them at
plea-

pleasure, since they must dye for Thirst; He thereupon took Garments, and dipped them in the Well-waters in the Town, and hanged them over the Walls in several places to declare they had plenty of Water. Then *Vespasian* commanded a Mount to be raised nigh the Town, to plant an Iron Ram, wherewith to batter and beat down the Walls; which they did so furiously, that *Joseph* perceiving them to shake, filled Sacks of Chaff, and hanged them down by the Walls, which by their softness prevented the Force of the Iron Head of the Ram; which Policy *Vespasian* observing, he sent secretly into the Town some Jews as spies, who should cut the ropes of the sacks, and then slip down the Walls with them, thereby to be secured from danger, and several other devices were used on each side.

But *Joseph* perceiving the War to increase daily, he issued out with his Forces, and made a great slaughter in the Camp of the *Romans*, burning the Mount and Engines of War they had left behind them, and forcing them to retire from the Walls; *Vespasian* perceiving his men shrink, stood up and encouraged them so much with good Words and large Promises of Gold and Silver, that they continued the Fight against *Joseph* till night; In the heat of the Battel, the Jews wounded *Vespasian* in the Right Leg with an Arrow, which much dismayed the *Romans* to see the blood run down: *Titus* seeing his Father wounded, was much disturbed, and ran to help him; to whom his Father said, *How comes it my Son that thou art so much astonished, Take heart to thee, and with undaunted Courage revenge thy Father upon the Jews, who have now the better of us.* The Fight was that day exceeding bloody on both sides, very few being left of *Josephs* Party, who returned into the Town. The next morning the *Romans* raised a new Mount, and renewed their Assaults; the City was now almost desolate, most of the valiant men being already slain, so that *Joseph* with those few left, and likewise the Women went to defend the Walls; The Engines throwing stones on every side,

it happened that a great stone struck a Woman with Child with such violence, that it passed through her body, and carried the Child with it the space of half a mile; another stone hit one of *Joseph's* chief Commanders with such force, that it divided his head from his body, and made it fly a mile off; At the same time a *Roman* Souldier was got under the Wall, and just going to shoot *Joseph* with an invenomed Arrow, which he espying, cryed out, *Hold thy hand wicked fellow, and do not kill me*; at which the man starting aside, the *Jews* out of the Town suddenly powred boyling Oyl on his Head from the Walls, whereby his skin was scalded off, and he ran away naked, howling and yelling to the *Roman* Camp, where he dyed.

Vespasian and his Son were fully resolved to continue the siege, which had already lasted 47 days, and those within the Town were so tired out, that they were no longer able to supply the watch upon the Walls, which *Vespasian* understanding, he and his Son *Titus* one night scaled the Walls in a place where the Watchmen were wanting, being followed by many other *Roman* Souldiers, who went down on the inside, and breaking open the Great Gate of the Town, the whole *Roman* Army entred thereat, and then sounded their Trumpets, and an Alarum to battle; The *Jews* with the noise and Tumult awaked from sleep very much afraid, however every man catcht up his Arms, and with all speed repaired to the Market-place, which was made so large, that all the People of the City might upon occasion meet together; As they were looking about, they saw the *Roman* Army marching through the great Gate toward them, whereupon they encouraged each other, saying, *Let us dye here fighting, and never suffer our selves to be taken alive*: and then they fell upon the *Romans*, but being overpowred, most of the Citizens were slain in the skirmish, they refusing to yield or take quarter, because they would not trust the Faith of the *Romans*; For a while before a certain Jew besought a *Roman* Souldier to save his Life, which he

he swore he would, saying, *God deal thus and thus with me if I kill thee, therefore yield thy self to me:* The Jew required him to give his right hand in Token of his Fidelity, but the *Roman* reacht him his left, which the Jew, being extreemly astonished, did not observe; But when the *Roman* had once hold of him, he held him fast by that hand, and with his right hand slew the Jew with his sword, who was then naked and unarmed, having cast away his weapon upon the Oath made to him by the *Roman*; when the other Jews observed this Treachery, they resolved to dye altogether, and never trust the *Romans*, and therupon fell on them, and slew many, yet at length the City was taken.

However, *Joseph*, and Forty stout men his Companions made their escape, and fled into a Wood, where they found a certain Cave, and hid themselves therein; of which *Vespasian* having notice, sent three Persons to *Joseph* to desire him to come forth, and he should have his Life, and not be slain; upon which *Joseph* debated the matter with the rest in the Den, requiring their advice; *For my part* (saith he) *if you will follow my Counsel, I think it best that we go to them, but upon this Condition; That they will give us such full security for our Lives as we shall require, which being done, I doubt not but Vespasian when we come to him, will extend his favour to us;* But they perceiving that *Joseph* inclined to yield to the *Romans*, were very much disturbed, and perswaded him, *That it would not be for his credit to save his life with the loss of his Honour, and therefore resolved to kill each other, and dye like men;* and thereupon each man drew out his sword, and came to him in the midst of the Cave, saying, *Joseph our Prince hear thou;* *If thou wilt be ruled by us, we will first kill thee as our Lord, and a great Prince, and thou shalt chuse what Death thou wilt dye, that thou mayst dye Honourably;* but if thou refuse to dye bravely, assure thy self of this, that every man of us will set upon thee, and kill thee: *Joseph* endeavoured by many Arguments at large, to divert them from their wicked

26 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

purpose, as proceeding rather from desperation and cowardise, than true Courage; But nothing would prevail, he therefore subtilly told them; *My Brethren since you are determined to dye on your own swords, let us divide into Couples, and cast Lots which Couple shall dye first, then shall they also cast Lots which of them shall kill his Fellow, and he that remaineth shall chase one of the second couple to kill him; likewise the second couple shall cast Lots in the same manner, and so till all be slain, that we may not see the Captivity of our people; and the last Couple shall either run upon each others swords, or else cast Lots who shall dye first; but since we are Forty one, and so cannot be equally divided, let us cast Lots which shall first be slain, and when he is once out of the way, let us divide as I have said.*

Every man liked this advice, and desired him to divide the Men; Joseph answered, *But let us swear by the Name of the Lord that this device shall stand: Which they accordingly did; Then Joseph cast Lots, who should be the odd man, and it fell upon Jehoida a Galilean, a valiant man, and one of the chiefest Councillors of Joseph, and the principal perswader of this wicked Fact to kill themselves; After this he craftily divided them into Couples, so that the Lot of his own Couple came forth last of all, who hoped to be saved, trusting in God, and believing that he would deliver him from this abominable deed; Then Jehoida chose him one of the first couple, who slew him; That done, the first couple cast Lots between them, and the one killed his Fellow, and chose him one of the second couple to kill him, and in this manner did they all, till they were all slain, and none left alive but Joseph and his Fellow, who said to Joseph, Come let us cast Lots, that we may go to our Brethren; Joseph said, We will do so if you be so disposed but first hear me a few words, have not these sinners rebelled against God in thus murdering themselves so shamefully, neither could I by any means dissuade them, nor divert them from their opinion, why should we sin so grievously against God and our own souls; If thou say, how shall we do by reason of the Oath we have sworn? Dost thou not know that*

a wicked Oath is better broken than kept, and this is a breach of one of the Ten Commandments, which saith expressly Thou shalt not kill. Now therefore my Brother if thou wilt be ruled by me, thou shalt save both thy own Life and mine. For I will not cast Lots, neither will I perform the Oath we have sworn, as being directly contrary to the Law of God; but if thou wilt not, I will fight with thee, and kill thee, and spare my self; And herewith Joseph leapt back, and drew his Sword in his own defence, His Companion knowing Joseph too strong for him, stirred neither hand nor foot, but said, Lo I am content, do what thou thinkest good, because thou art a man of God, and hast saved mine own life and mine.

Then Joseph called out of the Cave to Nicanor, offering to come forth with all that were left alive upon security given, which Nicanor readily gave in writing, after the manner of the Romans, and reacht it into the Cave upon a Spear, then Joseph and His Companion came forth, and Nicanor imbraced him, kissed him, and wept abundantly with him, especially at the Relation of the cruel stubbornness of those self-murdering Jews; Then Joseph was brought to Vespasians Army, who with Titus his Son, received him very kindly, and carried him about with him through the Cities, together with King Agrippa; then Vespasian marched to Cesarea a great City, where he had Intelligence that the Citizens of Paphos spoiled the Islands with their Ships, upon which an Ambush was laid without the Town, and when the Pyrates were gone abroad to rove, Vespasian entred the Town and took it without any great resistance, because their Souldiers were absent; when the Rovers therefore returned with their Navy, and saw the Romans in the City, they endeavoured to land, but a huge Tempest and mighty storm, drove all their Ships which were on the Sea-shore upon the Rocks; where many were drowned, and those who swam to Land, the Romans slew, so that hereby above Four Thousand stout Souldiers perished, which with those that were slain in the Town,

28 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

amounted to Forty Thousand, all Jews. Then *Vespasian* sent his Son *Titus*, who with his Forces won all the walled Towns in *Galilee*, saving the Lives of those which yielded, and killing such as resisted ; He restored likewise to *Agrippa* all the Cities in *Galilee* which belonged to him, except *Tarva*, which he utterly rased, slaying all the men who were fit for War, and selling their Wives and Children, this being the only City in all *Galilee*, where *Titus* shewed such severity.

Then *Vespasian* went to *Gamala* a City upon the top of a Mountain, near which was another Town called *Salucia* ; They both belonged to *Agrippa*, who therefore desired *Vespasian* that he might go and treat with them, and thereby prevent the destruction of the place, and accordingly the King went peaceably to them, and they received him very courteously, (though they intended Treachery) saying ; *Thou art our Lord and King, to whom therefore doth all that is of any value, or to be desired in all Israel belong but unto thee, therefore come near unto us, and debate the matter with thy Servants* : *Agrippa* crediting their words, came up close to the Wall, and as he listned to those who talked with him, one threw a great stone from the Wall, which fell just between his shoulders with such violence, that it struck him to the ground, and broke his back almost, and one of his Arms ; His Servants stept to him, and taking him up, carryed him to *Vespasian*, who seeing him so terribly hurt, swore he would never go from thence till he had taken the City, which he soon after accomplished, killing every man, and leaving none alive ; in like manner as at *Tarva* ; He came then to *Nascula*, which was the only City of defence left throughout all *Galilee*, and hitherto resorted many Cut-Throats, and Wicked Persons of the Land of *Judea*, amongst whom was *Jehochanan* a man learned and witty to do mischief, and of cunning Eloquence ; *Titus* was sent to offer them Peace, but *Jehochanan* would not let the Romans speak to the People, but told them, the next day was the *Feast of Weeks*,

Weeks, or Whitsunday, and the third day they should have an answer ; But the night before the third day, Jehochanan, and his Accomplices got privately out of the Town, and fled toward Jerusalem ; the next day the People sent word they desired friendship with the Romans ; and Titus hearing that Jehochanan and his Company were fled that night toward Jerusalem, he sent to pursue him, and overtook some men, women, children and impotent Persons, and slew them all, returning with great spoil.

*Titus having gained all the Cities in Galile, Vespasian marched to Mount Tabor, which is continually covered with Snow, the height thereof being Thirty Furlongs, and upon the top is a Plain of Twenty three Furlongs ; this Mountain he took, and the Town which stood thereon ; But Jehochanan being come to Jerusalem, associated himself with a great number of Murderers, and blood-thirsty Villains, who came out of all Judea, upon pretence to defend the Sanctuary of the Lord, and Anani the High Priest received all that came ; These observing the valour and courage of Jehochanan, revolted from Anani, and joyned with him ; and consulting together, they resolved to rob all the Rich men of the City, and began quarrels with them in this manner, when they met any wealthy Person, they thus accosted him ; *Art not thou one of those who sent Letters to Vespasian, and the Romans to betray the City to them ;* Thus would they examine them before the People, and when he would answer, *God forbid I should do so ;* Then would they bring in perjured Villains. Limbs of the Devil, of their own Company to bear false witness against him, that he might be condemned as a Rebel under a pretence of Law : Thus dealt they with several Noble men, and chief Citizens, and their Riches, Jewels, and Goods, the seditious seized for their own use ; They likewise put the High Priests out of their Office, placing ignorant Rusticks in their room ; These wretched and illegal practices so enraged the honest Citizens, that they resolved to*

30 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

joyn themselves together, and withstand them by force, which they did accordingly, and the Fight was very fierce on both sides, in the Streets, Market-place, Temple, and the entrance thereof, so that all the City was full of dead Bodies, and slain men; but at length the people prevailed against the *Russians*, and forced them to fly into the Temple of the Lord, shutting it after them; *Anani* the High Priest perswaded the People not to fight with them there, lest they should pollute it with the blood and dead Carcasses of those wicked Persons, they therefore besieged the Temple with six Thousand choice Souldiers well armed, to keep them from coming forth; and *Anani* sent to *Jehobanan*, offering Conditions of Peace, which he refused, expecting relief from the *Edomites*, and one night soon after twenty two Thousand of them came against *Jerusalem*; whom with the Priest discoursed from off the Wallis, and represented their unworthiness in joyning with the Seditious and Murderers.

Whilst they were discoursing together, there appeared a great dark Cloud, after which followed dreadful Lightnings with Fire, terrible Thunderclaps, and showers of Hail, which wonderfully affrighted the People, so that they all fled away, leaving the defence of the Wall, and *Anani* also alone; But *Anani* took courage, and stay'd to observe those horrible signs from Heaven, that he might judge what they presaged; And he gave his judgment indeed, but not according to Truth, for he foretold, *That the Thunder and Hail with darkness signified Gods help*; in hope whereof he perswaded them to defend the Sanctuary of the Lord; and to this all the Elders which were with him likewise agreed, not foreseeing that all these signs betokened the miseries that should come upon *Jerusalem*, and all *Israel*. Now when those who were besieged in the Temple perceived that the Watch at the Gate were fled because of the Tempest, and that none in the City durst look out of their Houses for
fear

fear of the terrible Apparitions in the sky, the darkness being so great that they could not discern each other; then came these desperate seditious Fellows out of the Temple without dread to the walls, and with saws and other Instruments they cut asunder the Bars and Gates; and when the crashing of the Thunder and hail was greatest, then they laboured hardest in wresting asunder the Locks and Bolts of the Gates, lest they should be heard, and when the Thunder-clap was past, they left off till it came again: Thus they continued, till at last they had broken, and opened the Gates, and let the *Edomites* into the City, who being entred, marched about contriving how to destroy all the Citizens of *Jerusalem*; to which end their Confederates in the Temple joyned with them, they swearing to each other to be one People, and one Army; Then they being confederated together, slew the same night Eight Thousand Five Hundred of the *Israelites*, all valiant men of War, besides a multitude more of the Common people.

In the morning they laid hands on the rich men, haling them before the Judges, and the Seventy Elders called the *Sanhedrin*, and among others one *Sechariah* a just and vertuous Person and only guilty of being too rich, this man the wicked *Jehochanan* brought before them, saying, *Why do you not condemn those rich Villains, who have conspired with the Romans to betray this Holy City into their hands*; The Priests and Elders knowing the innocency of the man, sighed and wept very much, which *Jehochanan* perceiving, said, *What do you begin to weep before you see any Corpse, I wish I may never see the face of God, if we do not sit in Judgment our selves, since matters are thus ordered, and you shall be the first we will judge*; Then the wicked multitude seized on *Sechariah*, and haling him from the place of Judgment, carryed him to the top of an high Tower at the East end of the Town, from whence they cast him down headlong into the Vale of *Jehosaphat* where he dyed; The Priests and Judges thereupon were much
afraid,

31 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

afraid, since *Jehochanan* had threatned them, that unless they condemned every man whom he accused they should all go the same way; *Jehochanan* then apprehended *Gorinian* a valiant man, who had often made great slaughter of the seditious, and was well beloved by the Citizens. whom this cruel wretch brought forth among the Rabble, and villanously killed him, throwing his Body to the Beasts of the Field; In the meantime *Vespasian* drew near to *Jerusalem*, having stayd the longer at *Cesarea*, because he understood that the Jews were destroying each other, and so would be the more easily conquered, which accordingly happened; For by the wickedness of *Jehochanan*, an innumerable Company of them were destroyed; some were slain with swords, others the seditious killed with short daggers; which they carryed privately under their Garments, wherewith they would suddenly stab innocent men to the heart.

Jehochanan having subdued the City, he sent an Army out of *Jerusalem* to take the Cities that had made peace with *Vespasian*, which they sacked and rased to the ground, and whomsoever they found therein, *Romans* or *Jews*, they slew; among others they took the City *Gerara* beyond *Jordan*, where they remained; But the Inhabitants of *Jerusalem*, and likewise of *Gerara* sent Ambassadors to *Vespasian* to come and joyn with them against these Seditious Rascals; *Jehochanan* having notice hereof, and hearing that *Vespasian* was marching toward *Gerara*, first slew the chief Governour thereof, and then with his Companions fled out of the Town, designing to secure themselves in a Wood; which *Vespasian* understanding, sent out *Polignus* after them, who overtook and made a great slaughter of them, and in his return near *Jordan* met with many more going to joyn with the Seditious at *Jerusalem*, whom *Polignus* forced back to the River, and slew Thirteen Thousand of them, the rest leaped into *Jordan*, and were drowned, in all to the number of Ninety one Thousand Men, Women and Children with much

Cat-

Cattel, who were all lost together in the River, inso-much that the Waters of *Jordan* ran over its banks, being stopt up with dead Carcases, so that the Fields and Plains were overflown ; yet at length the Force of the Waters carryed the dead Bodies down the River, to the Sea of *Sodom*, and all the Banks of *Jordan* lay full of dead Bodies :

After this *Vespasian* went into the Land of *Edom*, where he won two strong Cities, and slew Ten Thousand of the People thereof, leading away the rest into captivity ; and at length came to *Samaria* and took it, and then repaired the VValls of all the Towns he had conquered, placing Garrisons therein to aid him, when he should besiege *Jerusalem* ; He then returned to *Cæsarea*, and mustered his whole Army in order to prepare for that siege ; But in the mean time news came from *Rome*, that *Nero* the Emperour was dead, and it was at first reported, that while he was hunting, Fire came down from Heaven upon him, and destroyed him ; After whom *Galba* reigned, but within one year he was slain by the Noblemen of *Rome* ; and *Vitellius* was made Emperor in his stead, he was a Fool, but yet a very bloody man, and much given to drunkenness, so that upon all accounts he was altogether unworthy of the Roman Empire ; the Roman Nobility who were with *Vespasian* hearing this, were much offended, saying, Was there never a Nobleman in *Rome* left, to be placed in the Empire, but a drunken Winesucker must be chosen ; Why did they not rather Elect the mighty Prince *Vespasian* here with us, a wise and valiant Commander, who hath conquered many Cities, and vanquished divers Warlike Nations ; How many puissant Kings hath he subdued to the Roman Empire, and how hath he enlarged it far and wide, And now when the Empire ought to have been bestowed upon *Vespasian*, or some Person of the like merits, becauseno such could be found among them, they have bestowed it upon a Fool, and a sottiſh Drunkard, wherein they have done very undiscreeetly, however we are resolved the Empire of *Rome* shall suddenly have a better Emperor,
and

34 The Surprising Miracles of Nature

and thereto let God say, Amen. Hereupon the Princes who were present, consulted together, and decreed to make *Vespasian* Emperor; and going all together to him, they said, *Thou shalt be our Head, for the Empire belongeth to such a one as thy self, and thou shalt have Dominion over us; But Vespasian* refused to take it on him, and would not be perswaded to consent thereto; however they compelled him, placing him in the Throne of Majesty, and setting the Crown on his head, which he would have taken away, and pulled off with his hand, because he would not be Emperor; upon which the Roman Caprains drew their Swords and said, *Thou shalt be Emperor, and Reign over us, therefore refuse it not, if thou do, thou shalt dye upon our swords: Vespasian* therefore seeing himself constrained, being afraid of his Life, was content to suffer himself to be proclaimed Emperor; then all the Army swore Allegiance to him as he sat upon the Royal Seat, as Emperor, and King of Kings.

In the mean time the Civil Wars at *Jerusalem* increased daily by reason of *Jehochanan* that Limb of the Devil, who had escaped thither again; There was likewise another Cut-Throat Ruffian called *Schimeon*, who was discarded from his Command for his Villanys, by *Arani* the Priest; After which gathering together a rout of Thieves, Rebels and Murderers throughout all *Galilee*, to the number of Twenty Thousand, he came towards *Jerusalem* to vex the *Israelites*, who encountered with him with various success, sometimes one Party prevailing, and then the other; but at length one *Jacob* a great man among the *Edomites* joyned with him, and helped to subdue his own Countrey; with whom being strengthened, they approached the Walls of *Jerusalem*, destroying the Corn and Fruits of the Ground; *Jehochanan* having intelligence of his intentions to besiege the Town, and being too weak to encounter him, he issued out of the City, and lay in Ambush for *Schimeon*, at which time it happened that *Schimeon's* Wife, (who was fled out
of

in the Heavens, Earth and Waters.

of *Jerusalem* with her Men and Women Servants, (for fear she should be killed for her Husbands sake,) passed by the place of Ambushment, whom *Jehochanan* took, not a little proud of such a prey, and carryed into the City, thinking *Schimeon* would comply upon any Terms to gain his Wife whom he dearly loved; This came to *Schimeons* ear just at the time he had taken many of *Jehochanan's* men, and cut off their hands, sending them with such shame to *Jerusalem* to their Master; He likewise sent Embassadors to *Jehochanan*, to return his Wife, or upon refusal he threatned him with the utmost Extremity, since he was resolved to take the City ere long, and to *Jehochanans* shame would cut off the Hands and Legs of all the Inhabitants; *Jehochanan* being afraid, (*Schimeon* having with him Forty Thousand Fighting men,) he sent him his Wife, whereupon he continued without the Town, while *Jehochanan* played the Tyrant within, his Souldiers ravishing the Citizens Wives and Daughters, and shedding much innocent blood. and whoever complained was presently slain; so that the Condition of the *Israelites* was truly miserably, for if any went out of the City, they were slain by *Schimeon*, and those within were continually murdered by *Jehochanan*; The Citizens being therefore tyred by his Tyranny, assembled together, and encountred with *Jehochanan*, where a multitude of them were slain, and if the *Edomites* who were fled to *Jerusalem* from the Tyranny of *Schimeon* had not come in to their relief, the whole People of *Jerusalem* had been utterly destroyed, and slain every Mothers Son by *Jehochanan*, his power was so great. Then *Anani* the High Priest, and other Grave Men not being able to suffer the wickedness of *Jehochanan* any longer, resolved to deliver the City to *Schimeon*, hoping he would slay *Jehochanan*; who was at length prevailed with, and promised to assist them against the Seditious, but being entred with his whole Army, he broke his promise, and joyned himself with *Jehochanan*, so that these two Rebels reigned in *Jerusalem* by course,
one

36 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

one of them one Moneth, and the other another ; yet within two days they quarrelled about *Eltasar* the Priest, whom *Schimion* would have slain, but *Jehochanan* defended, so that ever after they fought one against the other.

During these Transactions at *Jerusalem*, *Vespasian* had sent two Noblemen to *Rome* to make away the Emperor *Vitellius*, whereby he might come and receive the Imperial Crown there ; They went therefore, and raised an Army, wherewith they fell upon *Vitellius* and slew him, though not without much opposition, for there were slain that day in *Rome* eighty Thousand valiant Souldiers ; Then *Vespasian* taking half his Army with him, left the other part with *Titus* his Son to besiege *Jerusalem*, but to continue at *Alexandria* till further order ; to whom *Titus* at his departing said, *I shall do dear Father according to your Commandment, for to you it belongeth to command, and to me to obey* ; *Vespasian* took with him *Agrippa*, and *Menas* his Son, with *Joseph* the Priest, for fear they should raise a Rebellion ; As he approached nigh *Rome*, all the Citizens came forth to meet him, and received him with great Joy, and mighty shews and Triumphs ; and soon after he was solemnly crowned Emperor ; within a few days *Vespasian* was displeased with King *Agrippa*, upon certain false Informations that he designed some disturbance, upon which both he and his Son *Munabas* were put to Death.

This happened three years and an half before the destruction of *Jerusalem*, at which time the continual Sacrifice ceased for One Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety days, as it is written in the 12 of *Daniels* Prophecy ; But *Joseph* was by the clemency of *Vespasian* set at Liberty, and sent to *Titus* (who was then at *Alexandria* in *Egypt*) with Letters from his Father, and was kindly received by him ; *Titus* soon after marched with a mighty Army to *Cæsarea*, where he stayd till the Winter was past, before he would besiege *Jerusalem* : But in the meantime the quarrels and murders in that
City

City ceased not, but Summer and Winter the Wars continued between *Schimmon*, *Jehochanan*, and *Eleasar*; for God had in Judgment sent a Spirit of Giddiness among the Citizens, so that they were divided into three Parts. The first and best sort of the People followed *Anani* the Priest, who at that time had stained and suspended his Office of Priesthood; Another part followed Seditious *Jehochanan*, and the third were for *Schimmon*; So that in the midst of *Jerusalem* there was nothing but slaughter and bloodshed, and without, the *Roman* Army made inroads from *Cesarea*, even to the Gates of the City; between those three within, there were most cruel Battels for the space of four days without breathing or ceasing, and every day very many were slain, so that the blood of the *Jews* ran abundantly through the Market-places and Streets, even to the Temple of the Lord, like a great Flood which had been caused by showers of Rain; Then assembled the Priests, Elders, and many of the People, beseeching these their Intestine and Domestick Enemies not to pollute and defile the Temple with their slaughters, but they were almost all slain for their pains by the villany of the Seditious, together with *Anani* and *Joshua* the Priests, and *Sechariah* the Prophet of the Lord.

Then had the continual Sacrifice ceased Thirty six days, for even till that time, some good men or other in *Jerusalem* still offered Sacrifice to the Lord; But now when the Priests had laid the Sacrifice on the Altar, the seditious would run upon them and kill them, so that the Priests and the Beasts they would have Sacrificed, fell down dead to the ground together, and so they likewise destroyed all that came thither for Devotions sake, so that scarce one was left alive; and the pavement of the Temple being Marble, was made so slippery with the blood and fat of those which were slain, that no man could go upon it without falling; Nay whosoever the seditious overcame, they set fire on their Houses, which fired other great

38 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

great mens Houses nigh the Temple, and at last caught hold of the Store-Houses of Corn, Wine, and Oyl, to the number of One Thousand, Four Hundred, all filled full of Victuals against a time of necessity, or the besieging of the Town; For when *Vespasian* was in *Galile*, the Priests and Elders made up the Doors of these Garner-houses, and laid in Victuals sufficient for Two Hundred Thousand men for 20 years, but now in this one Fight of the Seditious, they were all burnt to the ground, with all within them, which caused a sudden hunger and Famine in *Jerusalem*: At the same time the seditious pulled down all the fair and goodly Buildings, that there should be no sign nor Monument of any Noble House left in the City; Thus God visited the Citizens of *Jerusalem* with four dreadful Plagues at once, *Sword, Pestilence, Famine, and Fire*, to which this Fifth was added, the ruine and destruction of all beautiful and glorious Buildings; So that whithersoever a man turned himself, there were nothing but desolations, pollutions of the Temple, and all holy things, and uproars, without all rest and refuge, no help, no succour, but every corner of *Jerusalem* was full of howling and yelling, weeping and wailing, sobbing and sighing of Women and Children; Here you might hear the roaring and lamentation of men not quite dead, there the mourning and throbbing of the Elders, with the woful crys of young Children for bread, in short, all manner of misery oppressed them, so that he was thought happy who dyed before this day, and all those were in a woful case, who were so unfortunate to see it; when *Joseph* heard all these things at *Cesarea*, he tore his Hair with his hands, cast Ashes on his Beard, and sitting with great sorrow on the ground, he bewailed, and made Lamentation over the miserable City of *Jerusalem*.

After this in the first year of the Reign of *Vespasian*, *Titus* his Son mustered his men in the Plain of *Cesarea*, and he found them a vast number, so that they seemed

seemed almost to cover the Earth; he then marched to *Samaria*, and being received by the Citizens with great joy he spared them, and did them no harm; from thence he went to *Ajelma*, thirty Furlongs from *Jerusalem*, and there pitched his Tents, and taking six Hundred Horsemen with him, he went to *Jerusalem* to view the height of the Walls, and the strength of the Town, but the *Jews* laid an Ambush, and slew sixty of *Titus* his men, and might have slain him likewise, but that they designed to take him alive, whereby he took an Opportunity to escape; The next day *Titus* brought his whole Army to *Jerusalem*, and it being a little before the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, an infinite number of People who came to celebrate it, were shut up in the City, by which means the City was soon oppressed with a cruel Famine, all manner of Food and nourishment being consumed, and Oxens Dung was accounted good Meat, others fed upon old Leather, and horrible dreadful things happened, for some Women boyled their own Children, and eat them; many thinking to save their Lives by flying to the *Romans*, were cut in pieces to search for their Gold and Jewels which they had swallowed to prevent Discovery. Two Thousand were miserably destroyed one night upon this Account; And on the *Feast day* which was *April 14*. *Eleasar* having seized on the Inner Temple, opened the Gate that the People might sacrifice, *Jehochanan* taking this opportunity, sent privately many of his party, armed with short swords under their Garments, who being admitted with the rest of the multitude, set upon *Eleasar*, and seized the Inner Temple with the slaughter of many of his party; and thus the threefold Faction was again reduced into two, that of *Jehochanans* who were Eight Thousand Four Hundred, and the other of *Schimreons*, with whom were Ten Thousand, besides Five Thousand *Idumians*, or *Edomites*.

Titus approaching the Walls, pitched his Camp about the River *Psephina*, and presently raised a Mount,
and

40 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.*

and with a battering Ram first shook, and then beat down part of the Wall, and *May 7.* broke into the City; The first wall being beaten down, and the *Jews* retiring inward, he gained the North quarter of the City, even to the Castle of *Antonia*, and the Valley of *Cedron*. On the fifth day after a Tower on the second Wall being shaken, and battered down from the North-quarter; *Titus* got the new lower City, from which he was repulsed again by the *Jews*, but on the fourth day after, he regained it, and so address'd himself for the assault of the third Wall; *May 12.* he commanded four Mounts to be raised two at the Castle of *Antonia*, whereby he thought to gain the Temple and two at the Tomb of the High-Priest *John*, by which he hoped to win the upper City, which he finished in 17 days, *Jehochanan* by a Mine from *Antonia* cast down one of the Mounts, and burnt it; and *Schimmon* the second day after in a Salley that he made fired 2 of the Mounts opposite to him, with the Rams, and other Engines of the *Romans*, whom they fell upon in their Camp, but *Titus* relieving them from *Antonia*, forced the *Jews* into the City again; These Mounts being thus demolished, *Titus* in three days time encompassed the City with a Wall of thirty nine Furlongs in Circuit, about which he built 13 Castles, each 10 Furlongs round, so that none could go in or out, whereby the Famine raged so cruelly in the City; that with it, and the Pestilence, multitudes perished; so that from *April 14*, on which day the siege began, to the beginning of *July* following, an Account was taken that at one Gate, one hundred fifteen Thousand and eight Hundred Carcases of poor people were carryed out, who were buried at the common charge, besides those privately interred by their Friends; a while after it was known by those who fled to the *Romans*, that there were six hundred Thousand carried through all the Gates to be buried; and after that there being not enough to bury the Poor, they layd them upon great heaps in empty

empty Houses, and there locked them up, and the manner of burying others was only to throw them over the Walls, and fill up the ditches with the dead Bodies.

In the mean time, *Schimeon* continued his Rapines and Murthers within the City ; For he put to death *Matthias* the High Priest, upon pretence he would have fled to the *Romans*, though by this mans means *Schimeon* was first admitted into *Jerusalem* ; He slew also three of his Sons, and fifteen of the noblest of the people, all of them being unheard, and uncon- demned , Yea he raged so cruelly, that *Judas*, one of his Captains hating his Tyranny, contrived to deliver up a Town to the *Romans*, of which he had the charge, but being discovered by *Schimeon*, he and 10 others of the Conspirators were put to death ; and *Jehochanan* being necessitated thereto, converted to his own, and prophane uses the Holy things of the Temple as Vessels of Gold, Silver, and Money, nay, he was forced to distribute to his Souldiers the very Oyl and Wine which was dedicated to divine services ; But *Titus* fetching Materials from every place, and cutting down all the Woods and Trees for 90 Furlongs about, he with great labour in 21 days caused four new Mounts to be raised about *Antonia*, which *Jehochanan* in vain attempted to destroy, and then placed a Ram against it, by which a breach being made, they entred into *Antonia*, July 5. and pursued the flying *Jews* into the Temple, but after a sharp fight, the *Romans* were for some time repulsed, July 17. *Titus* commanded *Joseph* to exhort the seditious to yield, which he did in a large Oration, but they obstinately refused ; therefore on the seventh day after, he brought his Mounts nearer ; and by overturning the Foundations of the Castle *Antonia*, he made an easie ascent into the Temple, seizing on the North and West Porches without the Temple, part whereof joyning to *Antonia*, was burnt by the *Jews*, and soon after the other part by the *Romans*, the *Jews* not attempting

42 The Surprizing Miracles of Nature

tempting to quench the Fire, that the Porch might be entirely separated from *Antonia*, July 27. the *Jews* again set fire on the West Porch toward the Bridge that led to the Gallery, where many *Romans* getting up were burnt, the *Jews* flying away on purpose to draw them on; The day after the *Romans* burnt all the North Porch, even unto the East Porch; August 8. *Titus* perceiving he prevailed nothing with his battering Ram against the Walls on the Inner Temple, nor could undermine the Foundations of the Gates by reason of the greatness, and strong cementing of the stones; He was forced to do that which out of reverence to the place he had hitherto forbore; neither could the *Romans* by their Ladders get up into the Porches, the *Jews* from above still beating them down; therefore at last he commanded the Gates of the Inner Temple to be set on Fire, which soon taking, the Porches which joyned to them, were likewise presently all in a Flame, the *Jews* beholding and wondring thereat, their amazement being so great, that they neither endeavoured to stop nor quench it, so that these Porches burnt all that day, and thenight following.

And though *Titus* and some of his Captains intended to keep the Temple from firing, yet they could by no means effect it, for having appointed a Guard charging them to preserve the Temple and *Sanctum Sanctorum*; the Seditious *Jews* fell upon them August 10. and slew every man, which *Titus* hearing brought his whole Army thither; at which time a *Roman* Souldier took a flaming Firebrand, and getting upon his Fellows Shoulders, cast the Fire through the Golden Window into the Houses and Chambers that were built on the Northside of the Temple, and others layd Wood to the Doors of the *Sanctum Sanctorum* which were covered over with Gold, and then setting fire to it after the Gold grew hot, and the timber began to burn, the whole Temple was in a flame, and the *Sanctum Sanctorum* was layd open to the view of all. This happened in the second year of *Vespasian*, and the

same day of the Moneth that it was formerly burnt by Nibuchadnezzar. The Romans rushing into the Sanctum Sanctorum, gave a great shout while it burnt, which when Titus heard, he hastened to quench the Fire, and save the Sanctum Sanctorum, but he could not do it, because it was on Fire in so many places; thereupon Titus commanded them to forbear, but they would not hear him; for as a vehement Flood of VVaters breaks down, and carries away all things before it; with such furious violence, the Flames rushed through all parts of the Temple; Titus then drew his sword, blaming the Captains of his own People, and killing others; The Priests within resisted the Romans stoutly till they were no longer able to lift up their hands; Therefore when there was no other safeguard, they leapt into the Fire, and several other Jews with them, and so burnt altogether, saying, Why should we live any longer now there is no Temple; Yet Titus ceased not to strike the People, even till his strength failed, and then falling on the Ground, he forbore crying out on them any further.

After the Sanctum Sanctorum was burnt, Titus arose, and entring thereinto, he saw the glory and magnificence thereof, for as yet the Fire had not consumed all, and then said, Now I well perceive that this is no other than the House of God, and the dwelling place of the King of Heaven, neither was it for nought that the Jews fought so earnestly in defence thereof; nor did the Gentiles without good Cause send Gold and Silver to this Temple from the farthest parts of the World, for great is the glory thereof, and it surpasseth all the Roman and Gentile Temples that ever I saw; The God of Heaven, who is the God of this House, take vengeance of the Seditious, whose mischievous and heinous deeds have brought this evil upon them. The Seditious who yet remained in Jerusalem, seeing the Sanctum Sanctorum to be burnt, they set the rest of the Temple on Fire themselves, with all the Houses which were filled with Treasure, and all sorts of precious Jewels, and Victuals also, that the Romans should receive no benefit thereby: After this the Romans quen-

44 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.*

quenched the Fire, and set up their Idols and Images in the Temple, and after *Titus* had offered Sacrifice, and the *Roman* Ensigns were set upon the East-gate, the Army proclaimed him Emperor; and *Titus* standing on a Gallery, periwaded the Seditious, who were fled into the upper City to yield themselves, promising them their Lives, but they demanded leave to depart with their Wives and Children into the Wilderness, which *Titus* taking in scorn, threatened them with utter destruction, and commanded all the lower City to be set on Fire, with the Pallaces, and then assaulted the higher City, which was seated upon a steep Rock, and having finished his Mounts, on *Sept. 7.* he brought his Engines to the Walls, wherein having made a great breach, the seditious fled in great fear and amazement, and the *Romans* breaking in, destroyed all with Fire and Sword; And *Titus* commanded both the City and Temple to be rased to the Foundation, and the ground to be plowed according to the *Roman* custom, sparing only the West part of the Wall, with the 3 Towers, *Hippicon*, *Phaselus*, and *Mariamne*, which he left as Monuments to Posterity of the strength and magnificence of this once famous City.

Titus having thus finished this dreadful and difficult War, the Neighbouring Nations that assisted him, would have crowned him Emperor, but he refused, saying, *He was unworthy of that Honour, for it was not he who was the Author, and finisher of that work, but that he had only lent his hands to God, who had thus shewed his anger against the Jews;* Then did *Titus* reward his Souldiers, and committing the keeping of *Jerusalem* to the *Tenth Legion*, he went to *Cæsaria*, carrying with him all the Prey, spoils and Captives, because he could not sail to *Italy* in the Winter; The two seditious Tyrants *Jehochanan* and *Schimeon* were taken as they lay hid in the Vaults of *Jerusalem*, of whom *Jehochanan* was condemned to perpetual Imprisonment, and *Schimeon* was reserved to be carried a Prisoner to *Rome*, and there led in Triumph; In the same

same Vaults were found Two Thousand Men, who either perished with hunger, or else killed each other, rather than they would yeild themselves to the Romans; while *Titus* continued at *Cæsarea* he celebrated the Birth day of his brother *Domitian*, on *December 30.* upon which occasion the number of Jewish Prisoners who perished by being forced to fight with wild Beasts, that were burned with Fire, and that fell by being compelled to fight with each other, was above Two Thousand Five Hundred; Afterward *Titus* went to *Beirut* in *Phœnicia*, where he solemnized the day of his Fathers Coronation with great magnificence, at which time likewise multitudes of the Captive Jews perished in like manner as before.

At last, *Titus* sailed to *Rome*, where he was welcomed with a general Joy, and together with his Father *Vespasian*, triumphed for the Conquest of *Judea*; In which Triumph the two Captains *Jehochanan* and *Schimæon*, with seven Hundred other Jews, who excelled in beauty and strength, were led in Chains, of all whom, only *Schimæon* was put to death: The Book of the Law of the Jews was carryed also in this Triumph, as the last of the spoils, which together with the Purple Vail of the Sanctuary, were laid up in the Imperial Pallace. Soon after, *Lucius Bassus* was sent Lieutenant into *Judea*, who took the strong Castles of *Herodian* and *Machæron* beyond *Jordan* by assault; About this time, neither the Sun nor Moon were seen for twelve, others say, for fifteen days space, which some think was foretold by our Saviour, in *St. Matth. 24. 29.* Immediately after the tribulation of those days, shall the Sun be darkned, and the Moon shall not give her Light; &c. And *Cæsar* writ to *Tiberius Maximus* the Governour of *Judea*, that he should sell all the Lands of the Jews; He likewise imposed a Tribute upon them wherever they dwelt, commanding them yearly to bring into the Capitol Two *Drachma's*, which they used formerly to give to the Temple of *Jerusalem*; *Bassus* being dead, *Publius Sylva* succeeded in

46 *The surprizing Miracles of Nature*

the Government of *Judea*, who *April 15.* won that almost impregnable Castle of *Massada*; which had been seized upon by *Eleasar* the Nephew of *Judas Galileus* a Captain of Thieves; whereupon all the Thieves in the Castle, being about nine hundred with their Wives and Children, at the perswasion of *Eleasar*, slew each other, having first set Fire to the Castle, and burnt all their Goods and Furniture, lest they should fall into the hands of the *Romans*; But many of the Thieves which were in *Judea* fled, and came to *Alexandria* in *Egypt*, where they solicited the *Jews* to revolt; but the Common People, by perswasion of their Rulers, fell upon them, and took six hundred, whom they delivered to the *Romans* to be punished; the rest who escaped and fled into other places, were also taken; when *Cesar* heard thereof, he ordered *Lupus* the Governour of *Alexandria*, to pull down the Temple of the *Jews* which was in that City; Yet *Lupus* took away only some Gifts out of it, and so shut it up; But *Paulinus* his Successor having taken away all the Gifts, and shutting up the doors, ordered that no *Jews* should come thither, by which means there was not the least Footsteps of the *Jewish* Religion left there.

A certain *Jew* named *Jonathan*, by Trade a Weaver, escaping out of *Cyrene*, about this time raised a Tumult, and drew Two Thousand *Jews* after him into the *Wildernels*, after whom *Catulus* Governour of *Libya Pentapolis* sending some Horse and Foot, easily overthrew and slew them; and *Jonathan* himself being taken and brought before him, he falsely accused the most wealthy of the *Jews* as the Authors of this Revolt; To whose Accusations *Catulus* willingly hearkning, he put three thousand of them to death at once, confiscating their Estates to *Cesars* Treasury: He likewise sent *Jonathan* and some others with him Prisoners to *Rome*, to *Vespasian*, where *Jonathan* accused the honestest of the *Jews*, who lived at *Rome*, and *Alexandria* of designing Innovations, and among others

Joseph,

Joseph, who writ the History of the *Jews*; But *Vespasian* knowing this Accusation not to be legally brought against them, he at the request of his Son *Titus*, acquitted them, and deservedly punished *Jonathan*, causing him first to be whipt, and then burnt alive; *Catus* through the mercy of the Emperor escaped at that time, but not long after he was taken with a noisome and incurable Disease, and was exceedingly tortured and tormented in his mind, imagining that he saw continually the Ghosts of those whom he had unjustly slain and murdered before his eyes, and at last his Guts and Bowels rotting, fell out of his body, whereby he miserably perished; *Josephus* the Jew, and a Commander in this War, writes, That there perished by the Sword and Famine a Million of People; and of the rest of the *Jews* dispersed all the World over, and put to Death divers ways the number of Ninety Thousand, and Ninety seven Thousand more were made Captives. But of the number that perished out of *Jerusalem* during the whole seven years War, *Justus Lipsius* hath made this Catalogue out of *Josephus*.

At *Jerusalem* first killed by the command of *Florus*, six hundred and thirty; By the Inhabitants of *Cesarea* in hatred to them and their Religion twenty thousand; At *Scythopolis* a City in *Syria*, were slain thirty thousand; At *Ascalon* in *Palastine* the Inhabitants slew two thousand five hundred, and at *Ptolemais* two thousand; At *Alexandria* in *Egypt* by the command of *Alexander* the President were killed 50000, and at *Damascus* 10000; At the taking of *Joppa* by *Cestus Florus*, 8400; In the mountain of *Cabulo*, 2000; In a fight at *Ascalon* 10000; By an Ambuscado 8000; At *Apheca* when it was taken, 15000; slain at Mount *Garizim*, ten thousand six hundred; At *Jotapata* where *Joseph* himself was, thirty thousand; when *Joppa* was taken, four thousand two hundred were drowned; slain at *Tarichea* six thousand five hundred; At *Gamala* there were slain, and threw themselves down over the Walls nine thousand, neither

was any one of that City saved, but only two Women who were Sisters; kill'd in the Flight, when they forsook *Giskula* two thousand; slain of the *Gaderens* thirteen thousand, besides an infinite number who leapt into the River; kild in the Villages of *Idumea* ten thousand; at *Gerazion*, *Macheron*, and in the Woods of *Jardes* five thousand seven hundred; In the Castle of *Massada* nine hundred and sixty slew themselves, and three thousand were killed in *Cyrene* by *Catulus* the Governour; All which numbers being added to the Million and one hundred thousand who perished in the siege of *Jerusalem*, amount to one Million, three Hundred thirty seven thousand four hundred and ninety, besides an innumerable Company that perished by Famine, banishment, and other miseries, and *Josephus* adds, That the Posterity of *Herod Agrippa*, though it was very numerous, yet within the space of an hundred years, it wholly failed and was extinct; A. B. *Ubers Annals.* p. 900.

And St. *Jerom* writes, that in his time, on that day of the year wherein *Jerusalem* was taken by the *Romans*, you might see decrepit Women, ragged old men, and many other wretched people, (but pited of none,) who with blubbered Cheeks, Black Arms, dischevelled hair, went howling and lamenting for the Ruins of the Temple and Sanctuary, wearing and bearing in their habits and Bodies the sad Characters of divine vengeance, of whom the Souldiers likewise exacted a Fee for Liberty of further weeping; so that they who formerly sold the blood of the Blessed Jesus, were then forced to buy their own Tears; And the Reliques of this wretched People were dispersed into all Nations under Heaven, having no Magistrates of their own to protect them, but were, and still are altogether at the Will and discretion of the Princes and Governours, where they are suffered to live; so that no people in the world are so vile and contemptible as they, being made a scoff and a byword in all Countreys; Though still their hearts are so hardened, that upon all occasions

sions they have discovered their malice against and contempt of Jesus Christ, and his Religion; It is likewise worthy Observation, how that Prophecy of our Saviour was fulfilled concerning the irreparable ruin of the last Temple of *Jerusalem*, which although *Julian* the Apostate laboured to invalidate, and prevent; yet his design by the most just Judgment of God could never take effect; For *Ammianus Marcellinus* a *Roman* Historian gives this following Relation thereof.

Julian, saith he, designed with excessive cost and charges, to rebuild the sometime most magnificent Temple at *Jerusalem*, which by *Vespasian* and his Son *Titus* were with great difficulty won by assault; This Affair *Julian* committed to the care of *Alpius*, who did vigorously apply himself to the work, being assisted therein by the Governour of the Province; But there brake out dreadful Balls of Fire near the Foundation of the Walls, which with their frequent Irruptions, made the Place unapproachable, several Workmen being consumed by the Fire, and in this manner a full period was put to their further proceeding therein; But *Nicephorus Calistus* gives a more large and full Narrative thereof as followeth; The *Jews* saith he, having got together as many as were skilful in the Art of Building, and having provided Materials for it, and fully cleansed the place, they prepared Spades made of Silver, their charges being allowed out of the publick stock, with such earnestness and Alacrity did they labour herein, that the very Women carried away the rubbish in their Laps, and whatsoever Jewels, or precious Ornaments they had, they expended on the business; When they had digged up the remainders of the old Building from the lowest Foundations, and had cleared the ground, so that there was not a stone left upon a stone, according to our Blessed Lords Prediction: The next day coming to the place, they say, there was a great Earthquake, insomuch that the stones were cast out of the Foundation, so that many of the *Jews* were slain, who either came to see

50 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

the work, or had the oversight thereof; The Publick buildings which were nearest the Temple, were likewise loosed and falling down with great violence, buried those who were in them in their ruines; some who attempted to fly away, were found half dead; others lost their Legs, Arms, Hands, and other Members according as the force of that sudden accident seized upon them.

The Earth-quake was scarce over, but those who remained, fell to work again, but when they attempted it the second time, sudden flashes of Fire violently issued out of the Foundations, and other fire fell furiously from Heaven, and destroyed more than before, consisting to Ashes the Hammers, Graving Tools, Saws, Hatchets, Axes, and all other Instruments which the Workmen had brought for their service; the flames continuing a whole day together; When *Cyril*, who was at that time Bishop of *Jerusalem*, saw these things, he considered in his mind the words of the Prophet *Daniel*, to which Christ also had set his Seal in the Holy Gospel, and then told them all; *That now was the time, when the Oracle of our Saviour had its accomplishment, which said, That a stone should not be left upon a stone in the Temple; which when he had said, a dreadful Earthquake assailed the remaining Foundations, and casting out all the rest of the stones, dispersed them abroad, and a fearful storm arose, which whirled into the Air many Thousand Bushels of Lime and Plaister, and sudden flames of Fire flashing from beneath, burnt up in a moment an innumerable Company of People, who were either labouring in the work, or coming to behold it: Thus did the wicked *Julian* fulfil Christs Predictions concerning *Jerusalem*, by the same means whereby he designed to make them void.*

These Prodigies (saith *Eusebius* in his *Ecclesiastical History*) are sufficient to prove the truth of these Prophecies, but what I shall now declare, being very wonderful, will further confirm them, which I shall relate

relate as I find them in the Archives and Records, as followeth ; when the Foundations of this New Temple were laying, there was a stone to which the bottom of the Foundation was fastened, that slipt from its place, and discovered the Mouth of a Cave which had been cut in the Rock ; Now when they could not see to the bottom by reason of its depth, the Overseers of the work being desirous to find the bottom, tyed a long Rope to one of the Labourers, and let him down into it ; being come to the bottom, there was water therein up to his Ankles, and searching every part of that hollow place, he found it to be foursquare, as far as he could conjecture by feeling, then returning toward the Mouth of it, he happened upon a little Pillar not much higher than the water, and laying his hand on it, found a book thereon, wrapt up in a piece of thin clean Linnen, which taking up he gave notice by shaking the rope to be drawn forth, which done, he shewed them the book, which struck them with admiration, because it seemed very fresh and untoucht, though found in so dark and obscure an hole ; The Book being unfolded and opened, surprized not only the *Jews*, but the *Græcians*, for they found in the entrance thereof these words written in Capital Letters ; IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD ; And to speak truly, saith the Historian, that Scripture did plainly and manifestly contain the whole Gospel, which the Divine Tongue of the Virgin Disciple St. *John* had declared ; This together with the other Miracles which at that time were proclaimed from Heaven, did demonstrate that not any word of our Lord should fall to the ground which had foretold the utter desolation both of the Temple and City of *Jerusalem*. *Eusebius Eccles. Hist. lib 3.*

Thus severely were the Judgments of Heaven executed upon the *Jews*, which did not yet end here, but continued to their posterity ; For in 434. The *Jews* in the Isle of *Creet* were deluded by the Devil,

32 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

affirming himself to be *Moses*, who led the *Israelites* through the *Red Sea*, and perswaded those poor Creatures, *That he was sent from God to lead them through the Sea to their own Countrey the holy Land*; This these poor Creatures soon believed, and disposing of all their Goods to others according to his perswasion, they followed this seducer, who had spent a whole year in going from one City to another; he then led them with their Wives and Children to the top of a steep Rock that hung over the Sea; when they were come hither, this Mock *Moses* commanded them to wrap their heads in their upper Garments, and so to throw themselves from the Rock into the Sea, assuring them of a safe Passage, they readily obeyed him, and in that manner a great many of them perished in the Waves, and more would have followed, had it not pleased God that some Christian Fishermen were there at that instant, who took up many of them as they were floating upon the waters, and ready to perish; These afterward returning to the rest of the *Jews*, told them how they had been cheated and deceived, and how narrowly they had escaped; whereupon they being upon good reason all very much intraged, sought far and near for this seducer to put him to death; but when he could not possibly be found any where, they thereupon fully concluded, That it was the Devil himself, the old man slayer, who had appeared to them in humane shape, and divers of the *Jews* being moved by this Calamity, became Christians. *Eusebius Hist.*

In the Reign of *Trajan*, the *Jews* rebelled in *Egypt* and *Cyrene*, where they slew many *Greeks* and *Romans*, and did eat their flesh, and girded themselves with their Guts, imbrued themselves with their blood, and cloathed themselves with their skins; Many they sawed in sunder, from the Crowns downward; others they cast to wild Beasts, so that they destroyed Two Hundred Thousand of them; and likewise Two Hundred

dred and Fifty Thousand by the same abhorred Cru-
elty in *Egypt* and *Cyprus*; whereupon *Trajan* sent an
Army against them under *Martius Turbo*, who destroy-
ed many Thousands of them, and fearing lest the *Jews*
in *Mesopotamia* should break out into the like outrages,
he commanded *Lucius Quietus* utterly to destroy, and
root them out of that Countrey, which he performed
so effectually, that the Emperor to recompence his
service, made him President of *Judea*. *Dion Hist.*

Adrian the Emperour rebuilt the City of *Jerusalem*,
though not in the same place, for he changed the sci-
tuation thereof somewhat Westward, and called the
name thereof *Elia*, according to his own name; To
despight the Christians, he built a Temple over our
Saviours Grave, with the Images of *Jupiter* and *Venus*,
another at *Bethlem* to *Adonis* the Gallant of *Venus*, and
to inrage the *Jews* who abominate Swinesflesh, he set
up the Picture of a Swine over the Gates of the City;
who storming at the prophanation of their Land,
broke out into open Rebellion, but were subdued by
Julius Severus the Emperors Lieutenant, an experien-
ced Captain, who by reason of their multitudes
would not try it out in a set Battel, but proceeding
more warily, and taking his opportunity, he by de-
grees took so of their fortified Castles, rased nine
hundred and fourscore of their best Towns, and slew
five hundred and eighty thousand of their men, be-
sides an innumerable multitude who perished by Fa-
mine, Sicknes and Fire; so that almost all *Judea* was
left destitute; With them likewise was slain one *Ben-
chochab* their (Counterfeit) *Messias*, for so he termed
himself, that is, *The Son of a Star*, usurping that Pro-
phesy out of *Jacob*, *a star shall arise*; Though he pro-
ved but a fading Comet, whose blazing portended the
ruine of that Nation; The Captives by order from
Adrian were transported into *Spain*, and the *Holy Land*
was laid wast, which parted with her people and fruit-
fulness both together. Indeed Pilgrims here and there
find Parcels of rich ground in *Palestine*, which God

54 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

may seem to have left, that men may tast the former sweetness of the Land, before it was scourged for the Peoples sins, and that they may guess the goodness of the cloth by the fineness of the shreds ; But it is barren for the generality, the streams of Milk wherewith it once flowed, are now drawn dry, and the whole face of the Land looketh sad, not so much for want of dressing, as because the Almighty God hath frowned on it ; *Adrian* aforementioned banished Five Hundred Thousand *Jews* into *Spain*, whence they were again banished by *Ferdinando* and *Isabella* in 1492, at which time there were driven out of *Spain*, One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Families ; From thence they passed into *Tuscany* and the Popes Dominions, but were again banished by Pope *Paul* 4. and *Pius* 5. But it would be endless to shew what miseries they have endured in all Nations, ever since their Predecessors committed that great and grievous sin of Crucifying the Lord of Life, and Glory, and thus much of the *Jews* as we find them mentioned by *Josephus*, *Eusebius*, Mr. *Clark*, and other Ancient and Modern Authors ; I shall now proceed in the series of the History of Comets, and other Prodigies according to the Order of time, which this digression hath somewhat diverted.

VII. In the 70 year after the Birth of our Saviour, there was a great Earthquake, and a strange Bird of a notable greatness was seen at *Rome*, also a blazing Star, and two Eclipses of the Moon, and contrary to *Astronomical* demonstration, she appeared black and bloody ; Armed men were seen in the Air, and many strange and wonderful Voices were heard in the Heavens ; In 77 another great blazing Star or Comet appeared, and three Cities in *Cyprus* fell to the ground by an Earthquake ; A little before *Nero* slew his Mother *Agrippina*, the Sun was strangely darkned, as abhorring to behold such a sight ; and a Woman in *Rome* brought forth a Serpent. In 81, A Terrible Comet appeared ; The Tomb of *Augustus Caesar* opened of it self, and blood rained in *Germany* ; Three Suns were
seen

seen at once in *Poland*, and there happened much Lightning and Thunder, which consumed many brave buildings. An Elm Tree saluted *Apollonius Tyanus*, and spake to him with an audible voice ; The Sun is this year Eclipsed, and there was a great Earthquake in *Naples*. These Prodigies were judged to portend the following accidents ; The Emperor *Otho* killeth himself ; *Dardanus* Tyrannizeth in *Scotland*, and was slain by *Corbred* ; A very great Pestilence in *Rome* ; Most part of *England* is subdued by *Agricola*, he putteth *Kareneth* the King to flight, and the *Scots* also ; *Vespasian* dyeth of a Flux ; *Huldanus* the *Sweed* is restored to his Kingdom, from which he was expelled ; The Emperor *Titus* dyeth ; *Lynius* a Bishop of *Rome* Martyred ; *Domitian* turns away his Wife, and marries the Widow of *Titus* ; He sends two Armies against the *Goths*, and they are both routed ; Philosophers and Mathematicians are Banished out of *Rome* ; *Brittain* is reduced into a single Province, and at the Emperors own dispose ; *Cocceius Nerva* dyeth ; Two *Saxon* Kings rebel against *Froto*, he overcomes them, and makes them his Tributaries, *St. John* writes his Epistles ; *Rome* and *France* fall at difference ; The third Heathen Persecution against the Christians began.

About the Year 105 in the Reign of *Trajan*, who raised the third Persecution against the Christians *October 22.* there fell out one of the most terrible Earthquakes that ever was ; First there arose furious and violent winds, which tore up trees by the roots, made Birds fall to the Earth, uncovered and overthrew many houses ; Then followed Thunder and Lightning which made the night like noon day, then dreadful Thunder-bolts, which broke down stately buildings, and slew many men. The Sea was wonderful tempestuous, after which came such violent heat, that people not being able to indure it, stripe themselves, and then hid themselves under ground ; The Sky was so dark, and the dust so great, that one could

56 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

could not see another, so that rushing together many fell down dead ; Divers Cities were ruined, much people perished ; Several Mountains and Hills sunk, and became Plains, many Rivers were dried up ; Fountains and Springs broke out where never were any before ; Almost all the houses in *Antioch* were destroyed. *Dion. Hist.*

VIII. From the Year of our Lord 107 to 167, these following Prodigies happened. A very great Earthquake in *Asia*, many prodigious sights in the Air, as fightings, &c. observed in *Spain*. An Earthquake in *Galatia* ; At *Rome* Lightning from Heaven consumes the Temples of the Gods ; An Earthquake at *Antioch* ; Great Lightnings, strange unusual winds, and other with horrible noises in the Earth ; Two great Earthquakes at *Nica*, and two others in *Palesline* ; Milk rained at *Rome*, and an Earthquake happened there ; and Three Hundred and Forty Houses, though invironed with water, were destroyed by a great Fire in that City ; A great Serpent was seen in *Arabia* ; and it rained Frogs at *Constantinople*, three Suns likewise appearing, and at the same time, a Star and a Rainbow ; A very great Earthquake in *Bythinia* ; The waves of the *Mediterranean* Sea in a Calm elevated themselves to the top of a Mountain far distant from it, and cast the foam a great way upon the main Land. In this space of time, the *French* and *Saxons* plant Colonies in *Germany*. The *Saracens* and *Arabians* are subdued ; A Bishop of *Jerusalem* is Crucified ; *Babylon* and *Solucia* are taken ; *Nero's* house is burnt ; The *Jews* rebel in *Egypt*, and kill Two Hundred Thousand Men, *Ptolomy* King of *Egypt* encounters them, slayes Thirty Thousand *Jews* at once, and forced those who survived to eat up their dead Carcases ; About the same time the *Jews* slay Two Hundred and Forty Thousand in *Cyprus*, and at last are slain themselves ; The *Chaldeans*, *Brittains*, *Scots* and *Picts*, rebel ; Christians are put to death in *Asia*, *Apollodorus* is slain by *Hadrian*, *Polemon* is Martyred ; *Aurelius*

Cæſar ſeeing a wonderful Fire at *Rome*, cauſeth the Perſecution to ceaſe by an Ediſt from himſelf, *Hermogenes* ran out of his wits and dyed; The *Brittains* repine againſt the *Roman* oppreſſion, and rebel, *Agricola* ſubdueth them; The Fourth Perſecution began.

IX. From 167 to 219 were theſe unuſual Accidents; A wonderful fire was ſeen in the Heavens, which ſeemed to paſs from Eaſt to Weſt; Wolves came in flocks near to *Rome* howling hideouſly; Croſſes were ſeen to ſweat with Tears; Rain mingled with Fire falls from Heaven at *Prema*. A great and terrible Earthquake, and many inundations at *Rome*; Divers ſtrange fires ſeen in the Air, and ſome to fall from thence; Great ſwarms of Locuſts covered the ground, and deſtroyed many Fields and Meadows. A great Earthquake in *Aſia*; The Stars were ſeen all the day long at *Rome*, and ſome apparitions hung ſtreaming down in the very middle of the Air; And there fell a wonderful Lightning from Heaven upon the Capitol, and the fire increaſing, burnt the Library and all the houſes near it; All kinds of Creatures contrary to their natures brought forth prodigious Births this year; Flames of Fire deſcend from Heaven; There were ſeen at *Rome* three Stars about the Sun very glorious; An Eagle alighted on the Image of a Souldier; Bees wrought their Combs upon Souldiers Enſigns; A ſudden fire in the Air toward the North, A great lowing and fire in the Earth; A Whale comes aſhore in the Haven of *Auguſtus*; A Comet for many dayes together was ſeen at *Rome*; A wonderful Lightning fell from Heaven upon the Image of *Severus*, and blotted out three Letters of his name; Theſe things were judged to portend the enſuing effects; The *Germans* with an Army enter *Italy*, *Pertinax* is ſent againſt them, and bears them back; The Senate adjudges *Cæſſius* an enemy to the State, and he is ſlain by the Souldiers. About this time was great jarring among the Biſhops and Churchmen
of

58 *The Surprising Miracles of Nature*

of most Nations concerning Religion; *Smyrna* in *Asia* is quite destroyed; *Perennius* and his son are executed for Treason, *Apollonius* being accused for a Christian is sentenced and executed; *Cleander* who succeeded *Perennius*, is executed to please the People; Two Thousand dye in a day of the Plague at *Rome*; The Emperor *Commodus* removeth the head from a Colossus or Great Image, and putteth one of his own upon it, he grows ridiculous, and the People taking notice thereof, he executeth many of them, he is at last strangled by *Martia* his Concubine; In his Reign there appeared in the Sky divers fearful signs; Stars were seen continually in the day time, and blazing Comets of a huge length, hanging as it were in the midst of the Air; All sorts of Creatures contrary to their kinds brought forth monstrous and deformed Births, but that which most grievously afflicted the City of *Rome*, and amazed them with the presage was, that the *Temple of Peace*, the most stately and dainty Monument in *Rome*, was on a sudden without any Tempest foregoing (but only a little Earthquake) quite burnt to the ground, whether by Lightning or Fire out of the Earth was uncertain; That Temple was the richest and strongest of all others, and was curiously adorned with gifts of massy Gold and Silver, yea all Persons of Quality had there deposited, and laid their Principal Treasures; but the fire happening in the night, made many rich men suddenly poor; When the fire had consumed the Temple, it burned down also many of the most beautiful buildings in the City, continuing its rage for many days together. *Horodian Imp. History*, *Pertinax* is Emperor 87 dayes, and then is slain by the Souldiers; The King of *Scots* is slain by a Musician, for causing one of his Kindred to be executed; *Severus* goeth against *Niger*, whom he beat three times, and then slew him at *Antioch*; *Herod* besiegeth *Byzantium* (now *Constantinople*) three years together; *Satrabel* coming to rule *Scotland*, kills many of the old Lords
of

of the Kingdom ; *Constantinople* is taken by Famine, *Satrabel* is strangled by his Servants : The *Brittains* are beaten by *Severus*, and the head of *Albinus* is sent to *Rome*. About this time *Scotland* received the Christian Faith. The fifth Persecution began ; Many fled from *Jerusalem* into the Wilderness to avoid the Persecution ; The *Romans* wast *Arabia* ; Strange Heresies broached by *Praxeus* ; *Severus* went into *Brittain*, but never returned thence, Fifty Thousand of his Army dye ; Many of the *Scots* upon a Rebellion were cruelly massacred.

X. From 219 to 257 the following signs appeared, which were accompanied with remarkable Accidents ; An Eagle flying, takes away the Cap of *Diadumenus*, and he is slain within 14 months after ; The *Brittains* rebel, and invade the *Roman* Territories ; Streams of fire, and strange Lightnings are seen at *Rome* ; Armed men appear in the Air in *Muscovia* and *Poland*, the *Persians* invade *Armenia*, and wast the *Roman* Territories, *Aleffus* is slain in Battel ; The King of *Scots* is killed by his Guard, the Emperor goeth into *Persia*, and is overcome. — A Blazing Star is seen at *Rome*, which extended it self a very great length, and was seen both to burn and blaze many nights together ; *Maximilian* comes out of *Germany*, and is slain by his own Souldiers, his body is given to be torn and devoured of Dogs ; The *Goths* at this time became terrible to the *Roman* Empire. In 241 was an Eclipse of the Sun, which (saith my Author) was so great that it made the day seem as dark as the night ; *Athirco* King of *Scotland* kills himself, strange Heresies spread themselves ; The *Persians* are vanquished and expelled *Syria*. In 244 the Sun was totally Eclipsed, and there was a great Earthquake which caused the Earth to gape so exceedingly, that several Cities together with their Inhabitants were swallowed up and destroyed, great Thunder is heard in the Earth with terrible darkness, and another Earthquake, The *Goths* take *Chalcedon* and *Nice*, and ruin them both ;

60 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

both; The Plague rageth in the *Roman* Army: The *Goths* burn the Temple of *Ephesus*, and enter *Macedonia* and *Asia*; The Thirty Tyrants about this time engrossed and parcelled out the *Roman* Empire among themselves; And the *Sarmates* subdued and robbed all *Austria* and *Hungaria*; The *Germans* passing through *France*, entred *Spain*, to the City of *Terragona* which they ruined, and the Empire was almost utterly destroyed; Yea it was not only thus molested by men, but the very Heavens and Elements conspired against it, to plague it; For the Heavens were darkened in such a manner that for many dayes space they never saw the Sun, and the Earth opened and discovered great Vaults and Caves, out of which there issued great streams of Salt-water; and such horrid noises were heard as many dyed for fear; The Sea broke its bounds, overflowing and drowning many Cities; After which there fell out the most woful Pestilence that ever was read, or heard of, so that in *Rome* there dyed thereof Five Thousand Persons in one day. *Inper. Hist. Pag. 158.*

XI. In 257 the Sea overwhelmed many Cities in *Europe* and *Asia*; This year there were many exceeding great Earthquakes, and darkneis for many days together, spears also were seen in the Element at *Rome*; The *Germans* and *Scythians* wast the Empire; The *French* destroy *Italy*; *Claudius Censorinus* was made Emperor in *Italy*, and slain there; *Donald* usurped the Crown of *Scotland*, and kept the Nobility in fear, by threatening to kill their kindred whom he had got into his hands. In 300 there was an horrible Earthquake in *Tyre*, which destroyed many build-ings, and an innumerable Company of People; Many Monsters were also born this year; *Dioclesian* the *Roman* Emperor assumeth the Title of a God, and would have Divine Honours given him; Many Christians are burnt in a House in *Nicodemia*; The Tenth bloody Persecution began, One Hundred and Forty Four Thousand Christians are put to death in *Egypt*,
and

and Seven Hundred Thousand Banished. In 314 a Banner with a Cross was seen in the Air, and divers Armies fighting; A hand was seen in *Lateran* at *Rome* without a body, which in the sight of many men writ upon the Wall these words, *Hodie venenum Ecclesie infusus*; To day is poyson poured into the Church. This was interpreted to foretell the extraordinary Indulgence of *Constantine* the Emperor, toward the Christian Bishops, and his heaping Estates, Riches and Honours upon them, whereby they soon after lost their former Piety and Humility; He was surnamed the great: and was the first Christian Emperor who publicly countenanced and imbraced the Gospel, which he is said to have done on this occasion. At the same time that he was saluted Emperor in *Brittain*, *Maxentius* was chosen at *Rome* by the *Prætorian* Souldiers; being pensive and sollicitous upon these Distractions, he cast his Eyes up toward Heaven, where he saw in the Air a lightsome Pillar in the form of a Cross, wherein he read these words in *Greek*, *In this thou shalt overcome*, and the next night a vision appeared to him, commanding him to bear that figure in his Standard, and he should overcome all his enemies, this he performed, and was accordingly victorious, from which time he not only favoured the Christians, but became a zealous Professor of the Faith and Gospel; Before his time it is observable that few (if any at all) of the *Roman* Emperors dyed a natural death, (they being 40 in all from the time of *Julius Cæsar*;) though after they generally did. *Rome* was likewise beautified by *Constantine*, and Lamps and Wax Candles were first used in the Church in the day time; *Arius* begins to broach his Heresies, and is condemned by the Council of *Alexandria*. The *French* aid the *Sarmatians* against the *Romans*, and in a Battel kill Forty Six Thousand Men. In 323 a Fountain ran with Oyl in *Italy*, there was also a terrible Comet seen for many days together at *Rome*; *Constantine* overcomes *Licinius* at *Chalcedon*; *Ottavian* fleeth.

62 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

fleeth into *Scotland*, and by the aid of *Fincomore* recovers *Britain*, *Licinius* is put to death.

XII. In 340 there was an Earthquake in *Africa* which overthrew many Cities. A Child of six months old prophesies in *Rome*; *Constantine* the Elder is slain, *Constantine* subdueth the *Gauls*; *Athanasius* the Bishop is banished. In 343 was a great and terrible Eclipse of the Sun, and an Earthquake, whose force was so great that it overthrew many Cities in the East; *Ariemogenes* is slain in a Tumult; *Constantius* persecuteth the Clergy; *Julius* entertaineth *Athanasius* and other banished Catholics; *Arius* his Heresies spread at *Antioch*; The Christians are persecuted in *Persia* and *Constantius* is beaten there; The Heathen Temples are shut up. In 349 was a great Earthquake, which overthrew a whole City into the Sea except the Church; The City of *Dirachium* was swallowed up by an Earthquake, and *Rome* was shaken three dayes and nights together, with divers Cities in *Campania*. *Constantius* overcomes the *Persians* in Battel, but his Souldiers being drunk with Wine and Beer, as well as with success, the *Persians* came suddenly upon them, and make a great slaughter. In 362 an Earthquake did very much harm in *Persia*, and the City of *Nicodemia* was overthrown thereby; An Ox is said to have spoken in *Italy*; *Constantius* makes Peace with the *Persians*, and soon after dyes, the Christians are much Persecuted; *Julian* the Apostate being at *Constantinople* to prepare for the *Persian* War, is slain at *Chresiphon*; The Temple of *Apollo Daphneus* is burnt. In 369 was a great inundation or overflowing of waters in *Sicily*, and a general Earthquake throughout the whole World; *Romachus* defeateth *Augustian* and the *Picts* in *England*; He tyrannizeth, and the Nobles cut off his head; *Valence* putteth *Athanasius* to flight. In 337 appeared a Comet of wonderful greatness, and another general Earthquake in *Sicily*: The Scots and *Picts* are set at variance by *Maximus*, the *Goths* turn *Arians*, and wast *Thrace*, *Thessaly* and *Epirus*;

us: The Emperor *Gratian* killeth thirty five thousand *Germans*. In 384 there was visible a terrible sign in the Heavens in all parts like unto a fiery Pillar, and the River *Tiber* overflows her banks again; *Maximus* killeth *Gratian* treacherously, and posselleth *Brittain*, *France*, *Spain* and *Africk*: The *Vandals* and *Lombards* quarrel: *Priscillian* is Executed at *Trevers* by *Maximus*, after an appeal to him from the Council of *Bordeux*. In 392 a new Star is seen in the Heavens which appeared in the form of a sword for forty days together; Armed men and Castles were seen in the Heavens in *Greece*: *Valentinian* is strangled at *Vienna*, *Eugenius* is made Emperor, *Honorius* wars against *Eugenius*; The King of *France* is slain in battel, the *Romans* impose a tribute on the *French*.

XIII. In 399 strange fiery clouds are seen in *Constantinople*, an Earthquake, and great hail, a Star like a sword is seen at *Rome*, in many places hail-stones fell which were bigger than a stone of eight pound weight: A deep Snow, great Eclipse of the Sun, and other strange Meteors; the *Goths* divide into Factions, and consume themselves with Civil War; *Gildo* their King killeth his children, is forced to fly, and at last is taken and strangled; Heathen Temples and Idols are destroyed: The *Sybyls* books are burnt at *Rome*. In 412 the Earth at *Utica* in *Italy* seemed as if it mourned for seven dayes together, with a horrible lowing: At *Rome* great flocks of Grasshoppers were seen in the Air; *Arthaulphus* warreth with the *Vandals*; The *Spaniards* Countrey is parted between them and the *Swedes*. *Pelagius* a Monk in *Brittain* broacheth his Opinions; *Heracian* is slain by his own Souldiers. In 424 it rained blood in *Savoy*: A Comet of wonderful Magnitude appeared in the Heavens; In *Sweden* a Dragon was seen flying in the Air; There was a great Famine in *Constantinople*, Pope *Bassus* dyeth: The *French* besiege *Archillas*: The Emperors makes peace with the *Vandals*: The *Goths* break Peace with the *Romans*: The *Brittains* war with the *Scots*. In 445 were

64 The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.

were apparitions in the Heavens in *England*, burning Spears were seen at *Rome*, many Earthquakes, the Moon Eclipsed ; A Comet this year appeared ten weeks together : *Ælius* the *Roman* General is slain, *Cartigern* and *Horsa* are killed in battel at *Aylesford* in *Kent*. The *Brittains* beat the *Saxons*, and drive them into the *Isle of Thanet*, the King of the *Goths* is slain. In 463 happened a great Earthquake in *Rome*, and many parts of *Italy*, with terrible showrs, and great storms of hail ; The *Goths* wast *Illyria*, *Beorgok* is slain in *Italy* by *Ricimer* ; The Popes usurpations are opposed by *Hillarins* a Deacon of *Rome*. In 471 was an Earthquake at *Vienna* ; Wolves, and other Beasts wander all the year through that City, and devour men, the Emperors Palace is consumed by fire, *Ricimer* aspireth, and being discovered fleeth to *Milan*, he proclaimeth war against the Emperor, besiegeth *Rome*, and killeth *Arthemius* : *Portugal* and *Burgundy* are wasted by the *Goths*. In 483 Armies of men were seen in the Air in *Russia* ; An Earthquake also, and two wonderful Blazing Stars appeared, a Rainbow likewise seemed to incompass two Suns which were visible at once ; *Giles* King of *France* is slain, and *Clovis* taketh many Cities : A Persecution of learned men in *Africa* ; *Zeno* the Emperor gives up himself to riot and cruelty, putting many to death. In 507 there fell a great and fiery dart from Heaven in *Africa*, and dark spots were observed in the body of the Sun. The Emperor gives the *Goths* money to depart his Dominions, *Clovis* warreth against *Alaricus* for Religion, and *Italy* is wasted by *Clovis* with an hundred ships, and eight thousand men. In 529 happened wonderful Lightning at *Antioch*, and an Earthquake at *Constantinople* ; Legible Letters are seen in the Air at *Rome*, it rained blood in the Valleys of *Lucern* and *Piedmont* four days together. The *Persians* war against the King of *Colchos*, and the Emperor ; The *Vandals* put their General to death, the *Jews* are suppressed, the Emperors General *Mundus* defeat-

defeateth the *Getts* who wasted *Thrace*.

XIV. In 539 a famous Comet appeared in the Royal sign *Sagittarius*, and vast Flocks of Ravens were seen at *Rome*: The *Persians* take *Antioch*, and waste the *Eastern* Provinces; The Emperor purchaseth his peace. People are ordered to pray toward the East in their Churches. In 546 the Sea flowed up four miles into *Thrace*, and drowned many people: There was a very great Earthquake in *Constantinople*: The *Goths* soon after setting upon the *Romans* at the siege of *Septa*, were all slain; *Totilas* the *Goth* besiegeth *Rome*, and taketh it; *Belisarius* recovereth it. In 555 a fiery Lance in the Element appeared from the North to the East; The Heavens seemed to open in *France*, and lights shined out for two hours space, an Earthquake shook *Constantinople* for six weeks, and the Sun for the greatest part of the year gave so little light, as was only equal to that of the Moon, though the Sky was clear, and no Clouds or any thing to overshadow it; After which there followed a great Famine, Earthquakes, and much War and bloodshed. *Nasfes* winneth *Liguria* and *Venice* from the *French*: The *Romans* rout the *Persians* at *Phasido*; The *Jews* and *Samaritans* persecute the Christians, and burn their Churches in *Cæsarea*. In 570 at *York* in *England* the Fountains ran blood; Likewise blood fell from the Clouds in *Lombardy*, in *Kent* a Boy laughed in his Mothers Belly, and at *London*, Trees seemed to be on fire; This year the *Persians* begin a war with the *Romans*; The *Huns* break into *Germany*, and are expelled by the *French*: There was so great a Famine in *England*, that the People assembled together in flocks, to throw themselves into the Sea. In 590 was a great inundation in *Constantinople*: there was a Comet this year which Blazed a Month together; In the River *Tyber* at *Rome* was seen a Dragon, and many Serpents, and the water thereof overflowed the City, an infinite company of Grasshoppers are seen in *Lombardy*, and many Locusts in *France*. Not long after so great a Plague was
in

66 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

in *Rome* that eight hundred men fell dead in an hour in the time of Proceſſion, *Antharis* is poyſoned at *Papia* : The *Huns* invade *Italy* and *France*, the Emperor goes againſt them but was forced to return. In 597 a dreadful Comet is ſeen at *Conſtantinople*, the Elements ſeem to burn in *Poland*, a fiery lance is ſeen in the Heavens at *Rome* ; An horrible Earthquake in *Paleſtine* ; A ſign in the Heavens like a ſword flamed thirty days together ; A Comet was ſeen for a month together at *Jeruſalem*. Soon after the *Sclavi* waſt *Thrace* : The *Brittains* and *Scots* invade the *Saxons* ; *France* and *Poland* are miſerably waſted ; *Brunchild* a Daughter of the Royal Blood of *France*, being found guilty of the death of Ten Kings, ſhe is tyed by the hair of the head, and by the Arms to wild horſes, and torn to pieces ; The *Romans* and *Perſians* diſſer, and the Emperor is defeated in *Thrace*.

XV. In 639 was an Earthquake at *Antioch*, and Horſemen were ſeen in the Air in *Muſcovia*, and blood rained at *Naples* ; A wonderful ſtorm at *Conſtantiſople* which ſpoiled the Fields and Gardens, a fiery Dragon was ſeen in the Air there alſo ; After this the *Saracens* or *Turks* become Lords of all *Mefopotamia* ; *Sigebert* King of the *East-Angles* dies ; *Dagobert* becomes ſole Monarch of *France*, the Pope is imprifoned at *Conſtantinople*, and afterward baniſhed and ſtarved. In 674 appeared ſo horrible a fire, and a Rainbow in the Element, that many cryed out the world was at an end, this was accompanied with Rain, Thunder and Lightning, which ſlew both Men and Beaſts in *Italy*. This year the *Saracens* beſieged *Conſtantiſople*, and the ſiege continued 7 years, till at laſt thirty thouſand of them were ſlain, and their Fleet is fired by *Carinicens* who revolted from them ; *Bamba* warreth againſt the *French* ; *Egbert* of *Kent* dyeth ; King *Lothari* is ſlain with a dart ; The *Goths* overcome the *Gascoigns*. In 687 there was a very great Comet at Chriſtmaſs. and ſeveral Mockſuns were ſeen in *England*, the next year it rained blood ſeven days together through

through all *Brittain*. In *Campania* Wheat rained from Heaven, also Barly and Pulse in other parts of *Italy*, two Comets of great magnitude were seen this year; It rained blood seven days together through all *Brittain*, and the milk, cheefe and butter turned into blood. Soon after happened great controversy in *Rome* about a new Pope: The King of *Scots* is slain by the *Picts*: The Emperor defeateth the *Sclavonians*: *Kenwin* the *West-Saxon* dyeth; The *French* enter into *Germany*, and subdue the *Bavarians* and *Almains*: *Italy* began to choose themselves several Dukes this year. In 735 a most Prodigious Hail fell in *England*: Fire was seen to flame in the Heavens at *Rome*. About this time *Gregory* the great being sent to the Emperor at *Constantinople* about some Ecclesiastical Affairs, at his return to *Rome* the River *Tyber* swelled to such an immeasurable height, that it ran over the Walls of the City, and drowned a great part of it, breaking into divers great houses, and overthrowing many Ancient Monuments, flowing into the Granaries that belonged to the Church, and carried away many thousand measures of Wheat; Presently after which inundation there came down the River an innumerable company of Serpents, and amongst the rest one so monstrous that it was as big as a great beam, all which swimming down the River into the Sea, were there choaked, and their Carcasses being cast upon the shoar, rotted there, by the stink whereof the Air was infected, so that a dreadful Plague followed, whereof there dyed many Thousands; Yea Arrowes were visibly seen shot from Heaven, and whoever was struck with them dyed immediately, and among others *Pelagius* Bishop of *Rome*. This Judgment so raged in the City that many houses were wholly emptied of their Inhabitants. An inundation likewise happened in *Constantinople*; Oyl rained in *Spain*, a Comet appeared in the fashion of a sword. Crows fell from Heaven upon mens Garments; An Earthquake in *Palestine*; Fire rained from Heaven in many parts of *France*,

68 The Surprizing Miracles of Nature

France; The *French* about this time enter the territories of the *Goths*, and destroy their Castles; A mighty Pestilence in *Constantinople* for three years, which devoured so many that they wanted men to bury their dead; *Selred* the *East-Saxon* is slain; The Emperor beats the *Saracens* in *Cyprus*, the *Huns* General slain in *Transilvania*.

XVI. In 761 in the month of *September* happened a very great Eclipse of the Sun; A Blazing Star was seen in the East for many dayes together; This year the King of *Scotland* invadeth *Northumberland*, and is slain; There was a Rebellion in *Galloway*; The *Bulgarians* invade the Empire. *Dominico* the great Duke is deposed by the *Venetians* for his Tyranny. and his eyes put out. About this time the *Turks* brake forth from the *Caspian* Sea, and there was such an extraordinary cold Winter that the *Euxine* Sea was frozen thirteen foot thick, and men walked on the Ice for an Hundred Miles into the Sea; Yea all the Countreys from *Lycia* to *Danubius*, and on the other side as far as to *Euphrates* were so joined together by the Frost as if they had been all one Continent; And at the end of Winter began a very dry Summer. so that the Fountains of water were dried up; Some pieces of Ice as big as Mountains fell upon, and beat down the Walls of several Cities; Stars were seen falling from Heaven, so that men thought the end of the world had been come. In 778 was another great Eclipse of the Sun; Armies of men were seen in the Heavens in *France*. This year it rained blood, also Earth and Ashes fell from Heaven at *Rome*: There were Meteors in the Air like unto fiery Serpents, which fell in many parts of *England*. Soon after *Tellerick* King of *Bulgaria* is expelled by his people. King *Etheldred* flies from *England*: King *Aswald* is Murthered by *Siga*: The Emperor slaves Six Thousand *Saracens*. In 794 the River of *Tiber* overflows its Banks, and doth much prejudice, a very great Earthquake happened in *Creet* and *Constantinople*; the event

event was, that *Alphonso* King of *Spain* killed Seventy Thousand of the *Moors*, and took *Lisbon* in *Portugal* from them. The *Danes* invade *England*, but almost all of them perish ; The *Armenian* Legions rebel. In 798 the Sun was darkened for seventeen dayes together ; This year *Irene* the Empress of *Constantinople* first governed the Empire with her son *Constantius* ; but she afterward deposed him, put out his eyes, and lastly murdered him. In 808 the Sun and Moon were Eclipsed contrary to nature ; Armies of Men appear in the Heavens ; The Star *Mercury* is seen in the Sun like a black spot ; Blood rained in *Holland* ; At this time, the *Picts* wast *Scotland* ; The *Bulgarians* kill six thousand *Greeks*, and take *Sardis* ; The *Danes* subdue *Friezland*, the *Saracens* disperse themselves into divers Countreys under six Princes. In 820 a great and wonderful storm of Rain fell, which rotted all the Corn in the Fields, and such mighty floods and inundations followed, that hindred the Countrey-men from sowing their seed ; Fiery apparitions were often seen in the Elements ; The effects that followed were, a great Famine and Pestilence in *France* : The King of *England* is slain by the *East-Angles* ; *Asia* is wasted, *Constantinople* besieged ; and *Reyner* King of *Denmark* is expelled his Kingdom.

XVII. In the year 840 sparks of fire like Stars were seen to run up and down the Heavens : A great Comet appeared, and the Sun was much Eclipsed, swarms of Bees were seen at *Westchester* in *England* : This year was prodigious for many wonderful Earth-quakes, Hails, Whirl-winds, Thunders and Lightnings which happened in most parts of the world. Soon after, the people of *Spain* rebel, the *Scots* overcome the *English* who aided the *Picts* : The *Saracens* are overcome by the Emperor, and soon after *Lothair* their King with his Brethren, and one hundred thousand men were slain. The *Danes* enter the *Thames* with two hundred and fifty ships, and take *Canterbury* and *London*, and expel the King of *England*. In

70 *The surprizing Miracles of Nature*

870 were great Hail, Thunders and Lightning at *Rome* : a Church at *Worms* burnt by it, an Earthquake in *England* : In *Brixia* near *Italy*, it rained blood for three dayes and three nights together ; At this time the *Danes* were beaten out of *Holland*, and the *Saracens* out of *Italy* : The *Danes* land in *Scotland*, and challenge *Pictland* for their King. In 882 the Sun was so much obscured that the Stars appeared in the Sky in the day time. There was an Earthquake in *Normandy*, and a Blazing Star hung just over *Spain* ; Now the *Brittains* invaded *Scotland*. *Constantine* their King was killed : The *Saracens* break into *Italy*, and are expelled by the Emperor. In 912 four Rain-bowes were seen at once in *Scotland* : Fiery Torchets are seen in the Air ; Many great floods happened in *Saxony* ; A great Comet, and Stars were seen to run glittering to and fro in the Heavens. Divers Mock-suns were visible in *Italy* and *Spain* ; This Winter was very wonderful for excessive cold ; The Sun appears for certain days as if it bled, three Comets for a fortnight together were seen just over *Germany* ; About this time the *Vandals* invade *Greece*, and the *Saracens*, *Calabria*, and take many Cities in *Italy* ; the Emperor dyeth, his death being judged to be occasioned by his losses to the *Hungarians* ; The Pope is imprisoned and strangled ; The *Scots* assist the *Danes*, but are overcome ; *Gonsalvo* poysoneth *Sancho* King of *Spain*. The *Russians* in a malicious manner persecute the Christians ; The *French* King and the Emperor are reconciled, and divers Conspirators against the Emperor are executed.

XVIII. The year 956 produced many strange prodigies, as a wonderful hail at *Oxford* in *England* ; strange Lightning, killing many Priests in *France* ; Mighty Thunders, Tempests, &c. Soon after the *Hungarians* invade the Emperor, but are reconciled to him. The Bishop of *Strasburg* calls one hundred thousand *Hungarians* into *Batavia* ; they are all slain there, and the Emperors eyes pluckt out ; The *Ita-
lians*

lians make war with the Pope. In 968 Fire falls from Heaven, there was a great Earthquake in *France*, a Comet appeared, there was wonderful increase of Vermine, as Rats, Mice, &c. This year the Empress murders the Emperor *Nicephorus*: *Donald* murdered the King of *Scotland* for refusing to pardon a thief of his acquaintance. In 979 was an Earthquake in *Scotland*; Armies of Fire were seen a whole night together in the Air; A Child was born in *Rome* with two heads, not long after *Harold* King of *Denmark* is slain by an arrow: The *Danes* land in *Scotland*, and wast divers places, the *Scots* put them to flight, they land in *Kent*, and spoyle the *Isle of Thanet*. In 992 Fire rises out of the River *Rhene* (saith my Author) and burns many places in *Germany*. In *Spain* three swords appeared in the Heavens like fire; Now the Duke of *Bavaria* dyeth; The *Danes* invade *England* with a very great Fleet: the King of *Denmark* is slain by one of his own servants. In 1002 a Fountain of water in *Lorraine* is turned into blood. A Comet very horrible to behold was seen, casting out flames of fire on every side; The *Danes* being routed at *Oxford* fly to the Church, and are there all burnt; The Emperor *Otto* is poisoned with a pair of Gloves. In 1022 swarms of Locusts came into *France*. It rained milk at *Rome*, there was a very great Eclipse of the Sun, and this year the weather was so unseasonable that many dyed through too much heat; Divers *Polonians* rebel against the Christians; The Emperor overcomes the *Greeks* in *Italy*, the *Polanders* subdue *Russia*, and make it tributary; The *Vandals* wast *Saxony*, and take *Brandenburg*. In 1043 five Suns at once appeared in *England*, and a hairy Comet very large was visible, the Emperor overcame the *Russians*, who invaded his territories. A great Famine happened in *Germany* and *France*; The *Prussians* invade *Poland*, and fifteen thousand of them are slain, and twenty thousand taken Prisoners; The *Irish* and *Welch* enter the River *Severn*, and do a great deal of harm. In 1033 when the

Pope (the great Antichrist) was come to his height, and the darkness of superstition and Idolatry had overspread the Christian world, upon June 29 at six a Clock in the Morning, the Sun began to be Eclipsed, continuing till 8 a Clock in a very strange manner, the body of the Sun was of the Colour of a Sapphire, so that the Countenances of men looked pale and wan as if they were dead, and whatsoever was in the Air seemed of a yellow Saffron Colour to the great terror of all men. *Imper. Hist.*

XIX. There was a great increase of Rats and Mice in the year 1058; And stones of a mighty bigness mixt with Hail fell from Heaven, and killed many, two Blazing Stars this year hung over *Poland*; The *Saxons* rebel against the Emperor, twenty six thousand are drowned in a Pitfall by the stratagem of two Bishops in *Holland*, as they came against the Earl of *Flanders*. In 1064 a little before the coming of the *Normans* to this Kingdom about the Feast of Easter, there was seen for a week together a Blazing Star of an hideous and fearful form, which occasioned in mens minds a fore-feeling of some dismal events. In 1075 three Suns at once were seen in *Naples*. A fiery Dart ran up and down in the Heavens, in *Italy* women appeared in the Air of admirable shapes, which mightily amazed the Beholders. The Emperor deposeth the Pope, and the Pope him, and also excommunicateth him; The *Turks* take *Rhodes* and *Cyprus*: The *Hollanders* overcome the *Frisons*: *Northumberland* in *England* is wasted. In 1086 a great inundation happened in *Italy*; Four Moons were seen at once in *France* and *England*: Many tame Fowl became perfectly wild; In *Flanders* a fiery Dragon was seen flying in the Air, casting flames out of his mouth: shortly after followed the burning Plague, called *Ignis sacer* or *Holy fire*. The *Saxons* defeat the Emperor, the *Turkish* Emperor dyeth, King *William* the Conqueror dyeth, Prince *Edmund* and *Ethelred* are banished *Scotland* by *Donald* their Unkle, and dye in *England*.

England. In 1094 a fiery dart was visible in the Heavens, which through its violence flew from North to South; There was a great Earthquake in *England*; Horrible noises and strange groanings were heard in the Earth about *Rome*. Soon after the King of *Poland* being envied by his Nobles causeth many of them to be banished, *Pedro* of *Spain* taketh *Osca*, and killeth thirty thousand *Moors*; The *English* invade *Normandy* again; *Bretislaus* gaineth the Kingdom of *Bohemia* by the aid of the *Hungarians*. The year 1101 was very remarkable for Monsters; *Syracuse* in *Sicily* is shaken with an Earthquake; Three Suns, a Sword and Crown, are seen in the Air in *Germany*, and likewise a Comet of wonderful bigness, after this *Conradus* the Emperor dyeth in *Italy*: The *Russians* invade *Poland*, but are expelled by *Boleslaus*; In *England* the Earl of *Shrewsbury* warreth against King *Henry 1.* The Earl of *Flanders* takes *Cambray*; A League is concluded between the *English* and *Scots*. In 1106 a great Comet appeareth for fifty dayes together; The Emperor *Henry 4.* dyeth, as supposed of grief, that his Son had lately rebelled against him; About the same time, which was when the Christians were engaged in *Palestine* in the Holy War for the recovery of *Jerusalem*, three Suns appeared, one on each side the true, but smaller both in quantity and light, a great white circle invironing them, and in it a Rainbow of four Colours, the Bow being toward the Sun, and reaching to the other two Suns, and shortly after the Stars of Heaven seemed to rain.

XX. In 1116 fiery Armies in the Heavens were seen in *Germany*, with many Earthquakes, and very great Whirlwinds, then *Bruges* in *Flanders* was burnt, *Poland* was wasted; And the Emperor is Excommunicated by the Pope. In 1135 was a very great inundation in *Flanders*, *Holland* and *Freisland*, in *England* was a great Earthquake, and Whirlwinds happened in *France*, the light of the Sun appears sensibly to fail and decay; Now many people perished in *Flanders*:

74 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

ders : *Judea* is miserably wasted by the *Saracens* ; *Henry I. King of England* surfeits of *Lampreys* and dyes ; *Baldwin de Rivers* fortifies *Exeter* against King *Stephen*, he is taken and banished. In 1147 were great *Thunders* at *Rome*, and an *Earthquake* in *England* ; Several *Globes of Fire* were seen in the *Heavens*, a multitude of small worms were visible ; it rained blood, and there were strange *Lightnings* at *Rome* ; King *Lewis of France* about this time invades *Syria*, he is taken Prisoner by the *Greeks*, but rescued by the King of *Sicily* : *Alphonso* King of *Spain* took *Lisbon* and *St. Iren* from the *Moors*, the King of *Sueden* is slain, and soon after King *Stephen of England* dyeth. In 1158 a very great *Pillar of fire* appeared in the *Heavens* in *Germany* ; There was a great *Eclipse of the Sun* ; Two *Dragons* were seen to fight in the *Air* in *Sweden*. This year the *Emperor* goeth against the *Armenians* ; The *Pope* submitteth to the *Emperor*, but soon after repents thereof, and excommunicateth him ; The *Venitians* deny aid to the *Greek Emperor* against the King of *Sicily*. In 1169 there appeared three *Suns*, and three *Moons* beside the true ones, and also a *Comet*, there happened likewise a very great *Earthquake* ; not long after, the *Sultan of Egypt* is slain by *Syraconus* ; The *English* invade *Cumberland* : *Malcolm* King of *Scots* dyeth ; *Catania* in *Sicily* is destroyed and nineteen thousand *People* are swallowed up by an *Earthquake* , The *Romans* raise the City of *Alba*.

XXI. In 1178 there was a wonderful inundation in *England* ; Two *Armies* were seen in the *Heavens* in *Italy* to fight a fierce battel ; The *Sun* was this year greatly *Eclipsed* ; At which time the *English* and *Scots* quarrel ; The *Spaniards* take several places from the *French* ; Wars were between the *French* and *Flemmings*. In 1185 was another very great *Eclipse of the Sun*, and likewise a great *Earthquake* ; also an *Eclipse of the Moon*, and *Armies* were seen in the *air* in *Greece*, surrounded with fire ; At this time, the *Moors* were defeated

defeated by the *Spaniards*, and their King slain; The greatest part of *Bruges* in *Flanders* was burnt; *Baldwin* the fifth King of *Jerusalem* was poisoned by his Mother; A rebellion happened in *England*; The *Greeks* lose 70 sail of Ships by *Pirates*. In 1198 great stones fall from Heaven, there was an Earthquake in the East, which overthrew many Cities; It rained blood in *England*; Two fiery Swords are seen in the Heavens in *Spain*; Soon after the Kings of *Castile* and *Aragon* invade *Navar*; The *Sultan* of *Iconium* is swallowed up by an Earthquake; About this time saith *A. B. Spotswood*, *Adam* Bishop of *Cathnes* was barbarously used by some wicked people suborned by the Earl of *Cathnes*; He was assaulted at his own House, and his servant with a Monk who did ordinarily attend him were killed, the Bishop was by force drawn into his Kitchen, and when they had scourged him with Rods, they set the Kitchen on fire, and burnt him therein. King *Alexander 2* was at that time upon his Journey toward *England*, and having notice of this cruel fact, turned back, and went in haste to *Cathnes*, where he brought the Offenders, and their Partakers to Tryal; Four Hundred by publick sentence were executed, and all their Male-Children geld, that no succession should spring from such wicked seed; and the place where there Genitals were cast is to this day called, the *Stony-Hill*; The Earl because he did not help to rescue the Bishop, had his Estate forfeited, but yet he did not escape divine vengeance, being murdered by some of his own Servants, who conspired to kill him, and to conceal the Fact, set the House on fire, and burnt his body, whereby he was paid home in the same measure he had used to the Bishop. *A. B. Spotswood History Scotland. Pag. 110.*

XXII. In the year 1212 a dreadful Comet appeared for 18 days together; Shapes all bloody were seen in the Heavens; A Star with a Cross and an half Moon was visible in *Italy*; Not long after the *Spani-*

ards kill Two Hundred Thousand *Moors*; The Pope giveth away *England* from King *John* to Prince *Philip* of *France*, who lands there, and striveth for it; The *Flemish* with the *English* take three hundred sail of Ships from him, and burn an hundred more; The King of *Aragon* is slain, *William* King of *Scots*, and soon after King *John* both dye. In 1234 a great Eclipse of the Sun happened, and strange sights appeared in the Moon, for whereas she usually seems round, she now visibly appeared with six squares; The Sun was darkned so much that the Stars were seen; This year the King of *Bulgaria* puts out the Emperors eyes; *Vienna* is subjected to the Empire; *Constantinople* is besieged by the *Turks*, but released by the *Venetians*; King *Henry III.* of *England* and his Nobles quarrel but are reconciled; The King of *Poland* dyeth. In 1243 was a great Comet fearful to behold, A Hill of a vast greatness removes it self out of its place; A noise like Trumpets is heard in the air in *Italy*; These were followed by a great Plague in *Greece*, and a miserable Famine in *Constantinople*, the King of the *Cumans* is slain, and the *Turks* take *Jerusalem*, and kill many Prisoners. In 1255 a great Comet appeared; Strange Lightning fell from Heaven; The Sea overflowed in many places in *England*; Dismal and strange noises are heard in the air; At this time the *Geneveses* take *Venice*, and are expelled again; The Duke of *Lithuania* invadeth *Prussia*; five petty Kings are expelled *Spain*, the *Venetians* take *Padua*; *Ereline* comes thither, and kills twelve thousand Citizens. Not long after *Henry III.* King of *England* dyes. In 1277 there was a very great Rain about the *Rhine* in *Germany*, the Sky was as bright in *Poland* at midnight as if it had been noon day, Four Suns were seen in *Russia*, and there was an Earthquake in *England*; Now the *Turks* won all the lesser *Asia* from the *Greeks*: The Pope is killed by a fall, the Emperor slayes fourteen thousand *Bohemians*: King *Edward I.* of *England* forceth the *Welsh* to a Peace.

In 1285 a great Earthquake happened in *Italy*; A Comet of notable greatness was seen this year: A great swarm of divers coloured Flyes, and mighty floods of waters were in *England*: There was likewise about this time a battel or fight of Dogs in *France* (saith Mr. *Camden*) at a place called *Genelon Castle*, wherein every one killed another being in number about Three Thousand, no Dog escaping alive but only one; Upon this followed the Invasion of *Denmark* by the *Norwegians*; *Hungaria* is ruined by the *Cumans*, the *Helvetians* war against the Emperor, but are subdued; The King of *Sicily* dyes, and there was a great battel fought between the *English* and *Scots*, wherein many of the *Scots* were slain, the Sun the same day appeared as red as blood as long as the fight continued.

XXIII. Launces and Darts of fire were seen in the Heavens in the year 1300, a great Snow fell, and a Comet of a wonderful magnitude appeared; In *Germany* Men and Horses were visible in the Air; At this time the *English* beat the *Scots*; The *Turks* invade the *German Empire*, and commit great mischiefs, the Pope writes himself, *Universal Lord in Spirituals and Temporals*. *Flanders* is invaded, and many Nobles are taken Prisoners: *Andrew* King of *Hungary* dyes. In 1310 was an Earthquake in *England*: The Elements seem to burn many days together; A Boy was born with four Arms, and two Bodies; Soon after the *Polonians* subdue *Pomerania*. The Isle of *Rhodes* is taken from the *Turks*, *Robert Bruce* King of *Scotland* wasteth that Countrey, and drives out the *English*, the Earl of *Cornwall* is banished, and the Emperor burneth *Brivia*. In 1322 the Sun in *England* for six hours together appeared like blood. There was a great Earthquake in *Germany*, and two Crosses appeared in the Heavens, and a fiery Circle was seen about the Sun; At this time the *Scots* oppose King *Edward II.* of *England*, and put him to flight; The King of *Bohemia* conquers *Silesia*, and divers places in *Lusatia*:

78 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

The Emperor is taken in battel, and imprisoned 3 years. The King of *England* dyes. In 1337 were two Comets seen together, one of which continued four Months, the other but three: Blood rained in *Rome*, wonderful flocks of Crows and Daws were seen in *Germany*; The *Lithuanians* burn themselves, their Wives, Children and Goods to avoid taking; The *French* burn *Southampton*: The *Scythians* wast *Thraci*, and take many Captives: the King of *Sicily* dyeth. About this time there happened a fearful Earthquake in the City of *Venice*, which overturned divers Steeples and Palaces, and among other dreadful Effects, it caused many hundred women to miscarry in Child-birth, and a terrible Plague followed it, which reduced the City to such an height of misery, that it was almost depopulated, whereupon the Senate made a Decree, that as many as would come to dwell at *Venice*, should after they had continued there two years be free Citizens. In 1341 a terrible Comet with many other apparitions were seen in the Heavens: The Emperor *Ananias* about this time suffered death in an unheard of Tragical manner. And the next year (saith Mr. *Canden*) *October* 11, when the Moon was eleven dayes old, there were seen two Moons at *Dublin* in *Ireland*, the one according to the course of nature in the West, the other in the East, casting but a mean and slender Light. In 1348 Divers Mockfuns appeared in the Sky, and the Heavens seemed to burn; There were several small Beasts rained from the Elements in the Eastern parts of the World: There followed a great Plague in *England*, the *Englsh* beat the *Scots*, and recover much from them; The *Polanders* absolutely conquer *Russia*. In 1365 armed men were seen in the Heavens in *England*, and fiery Lances in *Italy*, Grasshoppers cover *Switzerland* like Snow. Soon after the *Russians* who rebelled in *Poland* were subdued; The King of *France* is expelled his Kingdom; The King of *Sweden* is taken Prisoner in *Dattel*: the *Turks* expel the Christians

ans from *Adrianople*. In 1375 a Comet with a beard was seen many nights together in the Heavens; Grasshoppers eat up all the green things in *France*: Mighty inundations in *Germany*, and a very great Earthquake there; After this five thousand Houses were burnt at *Gaunt*, and seventeen other Towns in *Flanders* drowned, the Christians kill twenty thousand *Turks* in *Bosnia* by a stratagem: The *Scots* burn *Roxbrough*, there were great Calamities in *Italy*; Prince *Edward*, commonly called the *Black Prince* dyeth, and not long after *Edward III.* King of *England*: The *French* take the *Isle of Wight*, and burn *Rye* and *Hastings*. In 1378 a general Plague in a most miserable manner invaded the greatest part of the world: It raged most among young Persons and Children; In the City of *Lubeck* only in *Germany*, it swept away ninety thousand persons: there dyed of it in several places, of bare-footed Fryers one Million, two hundred forty four thousand four hundred thirty four. The *Jews* were said to have poysoned the Fountains of water, for which they were every where seized upon and burned; About the same time likewise it rained blood, and two Mountains were swallowed up by an Earthquake, strange fires, flames, and a burning beam were seen in the Air.

XXIV. In 1382 A. Bishop *Courtney* appointed a Convocation to be held in *London*, principally against *Wickliff*, and those who declared against the many corruptions of the *Romish Church*, at which time this memorable accident fell out, when they were all met together at the *Gray-Friers* in *London*, just at that very instant when they were beginning there business against *Wickliff*, there fell out a wonderful, and terrible Earthquake throughout all *England*, whereupon divers of the Bishops being affrighted with the terror of it, thought good to leave off their further proceeding therein. In 1388 a Blazing Star appeared in the Heavens, which burned for two Months together; At *Oxford* the Image of a head spake thus, *Caput decidetur*

80 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

videtur &c. The head shall be cut off: The head shall be lift up: The feet shall be elevated above the Head; This was followed by a Sedition in *Oxford* among the Schollers, many of whom dislike the Government; an Army of Forty Thousand are raised by the Duke of *Gloicester*, Earls of *Warwick*, *Derby* and *Nottingham*: Fifty Thousand Christians are slain in the Plains of *Casovia*, very great Factions are at this time in *France*. In 1390 a great Comet appeared, after which King *John* of *Castile* dyed with a fall from his horse; Presently after *John* *Hus* and *Jerom* of *Prague* oppose the Pope; *Mary* Queen of *Hungary* dyes. In 1399 a running River in *Bedfordshire* divides it self, a Blazing Star was visible this year which shot wonderful Beams of fire from it: About this time *Scotland* is wasted by the *English*; The *Frisons* in *Holland* rebel; King *Sigismund* executed 32 of the Nobles in *Hungary*; The Pope is imprisoned by the King of *France*: the Duke of *Hereford* being banished, returns into *England*, and soon after King *Richard* II is deposed and murdered; the Duke succeeding by the name of King *Henry* IV. In 1402 a mighty Comet was seen in the Heavens, and so the year after: at this time *Tamerlane* Emperor of the *Tartars* enters *Asia*, calling himself *Iran* *Dei*, & *Vastitatem Terræ*: The wrath of God, and the Destroyer of the earth. He kills Two Hundred Thousand *Turks*, takes *Bajazet* Prisoner, shackles him, and puts him in an Iron Cage, and carries him Captive through all *Asia*, making him his Footstool when he ascended his horse; *John* *Hus* is condemned, and burnt for an Heretick at *Constans*: In 1415 strange Prodigies were seen in *Britain*, a Dragon encountering a Lyon in the air: armies of fire were seen fighting, and one party overcoming in the Heavens, a great Eclipse of the Sun, at which time the *English* fight with the *French* under King *Henry* V. at *Agincourt*, the *French* lose twenty thousand men, ten thousand being killed upon the place, and as many taken Prisoners: Pope *Gregory* dyes, the *English* invade *Normandy*: The King of *Spain* sells the

Can-

Canaries to the King of *Sevil*, the *Valentians* are made Tributary to the *Turks*. In 1421 another Comet appears in the Heavens; King *Henry V.* of *England* dyeth, and the next year *Charls VI.* King of *France* dyeth, *Zisca* routs the *Emperors* Forces; and burns *Catbna*, which place for the sake of the Silver Mines, he called *The Purse of Antichrist*, he commanded that after his death his skin should be flead off, and put upon a drum, supposing that as he had been victorious against his enemies while he lived, so that might have the same effect against them after his decease. Not long before this there was such a terrible Earthquake at *Lar* in *Persia* as overthrew Five Hundred Houses.

XXV. Very great Snows fell in *Germany* in the year 1428, and a mighty Earthquake happened in *Italy*: The Winter was wonderful cold, especially in all the Northern Countreys; after this the *Danis* spoil Thirty Ships of great value which belonged to the *Vandals* and *Hamburgers*, the *Turks* take *Thessalonica* from the *Venitians*; The *English* lose much in *France*. In 1439 a Comet of a mighty magnitude is seen in *Poland*; Swarms of Bees in *England* go in progress, a great Earthquake happened in *Hungaria*. Soon after an Universal Pestilence rageth throughout the whole world; *Albertus* the Emperor dyeth, and likewise the King of *Bohemia*: The Marshal of *France* is burnt for Sorcery and Witchcraft; *Amurath* the Great Turk waists *Hungary*, but is at last expelled by *Corvinus Huniades*; The *French* are twice beaten by the *English* in *Normandy*; The *Polanders* waist *Silesia*. In 1450 another great Comet appeared, *Amurath* Emperor of the *Turks* dies at the siege of *Croia*: *Scanderbeg* the great overcometh *Mustapha* his Competitor.

XXVI. In the month of *June* 1456 appeared two Comets, and the same year, *August* 24 there happened most tempestuous winds in *Tuscany*, such as never had been before heard of, which wrought most marvellous and memorable effects, for an hour before day

82 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

day, there arose from the Sea toward *Ancona* a great and dark cloud crossing *Italy*, and entering the Sea toward *Pisa* stretching two Miles in compass ; This storm was furiously carryed either by natural or supernatural force, and seemed divided into many parts, as it were fighting among themselves, and of those broken clouds, some were hoisted up toward Heaven, some violently cast down, and others with wonderful speed were turned round, but always before these Clouds, came a Wind, with Lightnings and flashings of fire, such as cannot be exprest, of these broken and confused Clouds, and of those furious Winds and great Flames, there grew so strange a noise as moved the People to greater fear than any Earthquake or Thunder ever had done, insomuch that every man thought the World was ended, and that the Earth, the Water, and the Heavens would have returned to its first *Chaos* and Confusion, this fearful storm where-soever it passed wrought marvellous and wonderful effects, but the most remarkable of all, happened about the Castle of *St. Cassiano* ; This Castle is built upon a Hill, which parteth the vales of *Pisa* and *Greve*, 8 Miles distant from *Florence* ; Betwixt this Castle and the Town of *St. Andrea* built upon the same Hill, this furious Tempest passed, not coming to *St. Andrea*, but at *St. Cassiano* threw down divers Turrets and Chimnies, and near to it subverted whole houses even to the ground, and carried away the roofs of the Churches of *St. Martino a Bagnolo*, *St. Maria della pace*, whole, bearing them from thence unbroken above a Mile, one man a Carrier was taken up, and in the Valley near the Highway both he and his Mules were found dead : Also all the greatest Oaks, and strongest Trees which would not bend at the fury of the Tempest, were not only blown down, but violently carried from the places where they grew. The next day after this horrible tempest, when some of the Inhabitants, who fled for fear thereof, returned, they were strangely astonished, for they found the Countrey

they desolate, and laid wast, the houses and temples overthrown, the people lamenting at the sight of their houses being blown down, and under them their Goods, their Cattel, and their Parents slain, which occasioned wonderful compassion in the beholders and hearers thereof, by this means it pleased God rather to threaten than punish *Tuscany*, for if so great a Tempest had fallen upon any City full of Houses, as it fell upon these Oaks and Trees, and small Houses one far from another, without all doubt the destruction would have been greater then the mind of man could have conceived; But it pleased God by that small example to revive in mens minds the memory of his power. The same year there perished about *Pisa* and *Naples* forty thousand People by an Earthquake; *Mahomet the Great* *Turk* is beaten from the siege of *Belgrade* by *Hannibals*, who soon after dyes; *Ladislaus* King of *Poland* and *Alphonfus* King of *Naples* both dye. *Mathebiavii Hist. Florence Lib. 6.*

XXVII. In 1460. a most terrible Comet appeared to fight; This year King *Henry VI.* of *England* is made Prisoner at *Northampton*: The Civil Wars in *France* begin; *Charles VII.* King of *France* and *Adolphus* Duke of *Holsatia* both dye; *Cracovia* a great City in *Poland* is destroyed with Fire and Sword: *Mahomet II.* Emperor of the *Turks* after many victories, cruelly kills *David* the Emperor of *Trapezund* and his two sons: the Duke of *Tork* is slain at the battle of *Wakefield* in *Tork* hire. In 1477 a Blazing Star of the colour of the Star *Saturn* appeared: there ensued a most terrible Plague: The *Hilbertians* kill'd seventeen thousand *French*, and *Charles* Duke of *Burgundy*: The *Turks* wast *Carinthia*, and the *Tartars*, *Podolia*. In 1484 happened a wonderful deep Snow in *Germany*, and fiery darts were seen in the Sky, the Sun was likewise much Eclipsed. In *England* three Suns appeared about this time, and in *Poland* there was seen (saith my Author) an Image of *Christ* Crucified with a Sword in his hand, passing along the Air from West

84 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

to South for two hours together : The *English* invade *Scotland* but are repulsed ; The *Venetians* make war against the *Turks* : The quarrel continueth in *Germany* about the Archbishoprick of *Mintz* ; A Rebellion was raised in *France* against the Queen for the Princes death. In 1470 Hail of wonderful greatness fell at *Rome*, the stones whereof weighed eight ounces, in *Germany* Hail-stones fell as big as Goose eggs ; Soon after the *Turks* take *Sabotz* in *Hungary*, and wast *Germany* : The King of *Sicily* with the *Venetians* fight against them, and spovl *Lesbos* and *Pergamus*.

XXVIII. In the Year 1478 the Sun is darkened without an Eclipse, swarms of Grasshoppers are seen in *Italy* ; A Glorious Star is seen to run along the Firmament ; Armies are observed fighting in the Air in *Switzerland* ; After this the *Hungarians* defeat the *Turks*, and take Thirty Thousand Captives from them ; The *Spanish Inquisition* is first instituted in *Castile* against the *Moss* and *Jews* ; The *Transilvanians* overcome the *Turks* ; About this time King *Charles VIII.* of *France* marched into *Italy* with an Army for the Conquest of the Kingdom of *Naples*, a little before which, were many strange Prodigies, whereby divers Persons foresaw, and foretold, that there would be greater changes, and more horrible accidents than in many years before had happened in any part of the world. For there were seen in the night at *Poville* in *Italy* three Suns in the midst of the Firmament, and many Clouds about them which sent forth most dreadful Thunders and Lightnings. In the Territory of *Aretzo* were manifestly seen in the Air infinite numbers of armed men upon mighty Horses with a terrible noise of drums and Trumpets ; The Images of the Saints (saith my Author) did plainly sweat in many parts of *Italy* ; In several places divers Monsters were brought forth, both of women, and other Creatures, with many other things against the order of nature, which happened almost all at one time in divers places ; And whilst the *French Army* was in the City of
Mil-

Milain, there happened an accident of no less wonder than fear, which extremely astonished the Soldiers, as if the Heavens by manifest signs had forewarned them of their future calamities; For upon *St. Peters* day, the Sun being set, and the Air and Firmament clear, there fell down from Heaven a Light, and a Fire just before the Gate of the Castle, where at that time stood many barrels of Powder, which were brought out of the Castle to be sent to other Places; This Flash of fire seized upon the Powder, with an horrible noise, by the violence whereof the fair Tower of Marble which was over the Gate, on the top of which stood a stately Clock, was thrown down, and rased from the very Foundation to the top thereof; In which fury the Walls and Chambers of the Castle, with other buildings adjoining to the Tower had the same fate; Yea in one instant the whole body of the Castle, and the whole City of *Milain* trembled and shook with the fury of the blow, which carryed into the Air from several places many great and huge stones, which in their fall hurt and slew divers Persons; And as in a common calamity a multitude have a share, so it fell out here, for many who had escaped the fall of the stones, were overwhelmed by the ruines of the Walls, under which they were smothered and pressed to death; with these ruines the Castle green was so overspread and covered, that it was very dreadful to behold such a sudden alteration, but it was mighty surprizing even to the most courageous to see stones of such an incredible bigness to be thrown with the fury of the fire above five hundred paces from the place; This happened at that very hour, wherein people of all sorts were walking for their Recreation upon the Castle Green, whereby there were slain above five hundred men who belonged to the Castle. *Guichardines Hist. Italy. Pag. 785.*

XXIX. In the year 1492 a great Comet is visible in the Heavens, Three Suns are seen in *Poland*, another

ther Comet appeared for two Months ; In *Rome* the Sky was seen to be on fire for many nights together ; These were succeeded by great Inundations and Floods in *England* ; The *English* go against the *French*, the *Jews* are expelled *Spain*. A Rebellion at *Gaunt* in *Flanders* : The *Hungarians* enter *Mysia*, and return back with much booty ; A rot of great Potentates ; Pope *Innocent VIII.* dyes, *Alphonfus* King of *Portugal* dyes by a fall from his Horse ; *Frederick* Emperor of *Germany* and *Cassimer* King of *Poland* both dye ; A great part of *Cracovia* is burnt. In 1500 a great fiery Dragon, and of a monstrous shape is seen in *Savoy* ; A Comet of wonderful Magnitude appears for 18 days in *Poland*, an Inundation in *Germany* ; Soon after the King of *Sweden*, and the Queen of *Bohemia* dye ; The State of *Millain* rebel, and are suddenly subdued again ; Next year Prince *Arthur* Son to *Henry VIII.* dyeth, and the Wife of King *Henry VII.* of *England*. The *Turks* take *Modone*, and many other places from the *Venetians*, and destroy abundance of them, together with divers *French* and *Spaniards*. In 1506 there appeared two Comets, the first on *April 11.* which lasted but five days ; the second in *August* following : *Alexander* King of *Poland* dyes, together with the King of *Spain*, and *Philip* the son of *Maximilian* the Emperor. In 1509 there was a great and terrible Earthquake in *Constantinople*, and the Countreys thereabout, by the violence whereof a great part of the Walls of that City, with many stately buildings both publick and private were quite overthrown, and thirteen thousand People overwhelmed, and destroyed therewith ; The terror thereof was so great, that *Bajazet* the Emperor himself, and the People generally forsook their houses, and lay abroad in the Fields : It continued for a Month together with very little intermission, after which ensued a great Plague whereby that City was almost made desolate, there dying above an hundred and threescore thousand people, *Turkish Hist.* Pag. 476.

XXX. The next year 1510, there happened a Prodigy which is very strange to relate, for in this year (saith my Author) there fell Twelve Hundred Stones from Heaven, some weighing threescore pound, others more? Nay it is affirmed, some of them weighed an Hundred and Twenty Pound, which if true, serves for a good Argument to prove that some other Stars or Planets may be habitable besides the Earth; At this time the *Lubeckers* wast *Denmark*, King *Henry 8.* goeth into *France*, and besiegeth *Tuorniu*; *Bajazet* the Great *Turk* is poysoned: The *Spaniards* take *Tripoly*, and make war in *Navay*: The *Lubeckers* worst the *Danes* at Sea, the *Switzers* invade *France*, and do much mischief there. In 1512 there appeared a great Comet in *Leo*: Pope *Julius 2.* and *John King* of *Sweedland* dye. *James 4.* King of *Scotland* is slain at *Flodden Field*: The King of *Poland* being at war with the Emperor of *Muscovia*, kills forty thousand of his men in a pitcht battle. In 1521 three Suns with a Rainbow were seen at *Vienna* in *Germany*, and suddenly after a great burning Torch was visible in the Heavens which continued a Month; A Circle and Cross appears with the Moon, and a burning Pillar is seen in *Germany*: Soon after the *Venetians* aid the *Hungarians* against the *Turks*: The *French* lose *Millain*; The *English* and *French* quarrel; The Emperor invades *Picardy* in *France*: King *Henry 8.* writes against the Pope. *Christian King* of *Denmark* is expelled his Kingdom. In 1530 a Blazing Star of wonderful greatness appeared, and was visible through all *Europe*. This year four hundred and four *Parishes* were drowned by a great Inundation of the Sea in *Holland*, with all their People and Cattel, the *Turks* take *Buda* in *Hungary*, the Great Cardinal *Woolsey* dyes, the *English* Clergy are fined, and pay to the King an Hundred Thousand pound for divers misdemeanours, the next year about Fourteen Hundred Houses were overthrown by an Earthquake at *Lisbon* in *Portugal*, and about six Hundred more so extreemly shattered, that they were
ready

88 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature.*

ready to fall, and many of the Churches were thrown to the ground. In 1533 a very great Comet was visible in the Heavens, this year Pope *Clement 7* dyes; *Alphonfus* Duke of *Ferrara*, and the Duke of *Millain* dye, strange factions and seditions are raised about Religion in *Hungary*; A great *Plague* at *Noremburg* in *Germany*. In 1538 a fiery Comet appeared in the Sign *Pisces*, with a long tail; *Charles* Duke of *Gelderland* dyeth; This year was made famous for divers things; For then the Kingdom of *Denmark* imbraced the Gospel; The Emperor and, King of *France* met together to treat of Peace, the Bible was Printed in *English* at *Paris*, the Overseer of which work was Bishop *Bonner*; The University of *Strasburg* was erected: The Sect of the *Antinomians* was detected; The Duke of *Brandenburg* imbraced the *Augustian* Confession; The Sea upon the Coasts of the Kingdom of *Naples* was wholly dry for eight Miles together, out of which Fire and Ashes broke forth so abundantly that many places were miserably destroyed thereby. This year *Alexander Medices* who was made by the Pope Duke of *Florence*, was Married to *Margaret* Daughter of the Emperor *Charles 5.* the Nuptials were celebrated with great Pomp, and Military Revels, at which time a great part of the body of the Sun was darkened, whilst they were at the Feast, which much astonished the Guests, and the very next year after, this *Alexander* was murdered by his Kinsman *Lorenzo Medices*, who was always very great with him, and privy to all his debaucheries. *Strada Wars Low-Countries.*

XXXI. In 1539 a bloody Star and Cross were seen flying in the Air: Armed men, swords and funerals were visible in the Heavens in *Germany*, there likewise appeared a Blazing Star: This year *John* Duke of *Cleve* dyeth, a great fire happened in *Constantinople*, which burnt the Jayl, and consumed seven hundred Prisoners therein; *John* King of *Hungary* dyes, the *Irish* invade the *English*, and are beaten, *George* Duke of *Saxony* dyes; The People of *Gauant* in *Flanders* mutiny,

tiny, and behead their Magistrates; *Isabella* Empress of *Germany* dyeth, and shortly after *Katherine* Queen of *England* is beheaded by King *Henry* 8. In 1545 a Comet appeared in the West, in colour like blood; *Lodowick* Prince *Elektor* dyes, *Martin Luther* dyes, and the next year a war in *Germany* breaks out. A bloody *French* Massacre was now perpetrated: King *Henry* 8. of *England*, and *Francis* 1. King of *France* both dye: The Earl of *Surrey* is this year beheaded in *England*. In 1548 *November* 6 there was a great chasme, or opening in the Heavens, and in some places fire fell to the Earth, and flew up into the Air again: This *Jasper Crucifiger* saw, and thereupon much bewailed the great Commotions and Divisions in the Church, which he foresaw by this Prodigy, and accordingly it came to pass. In 1550 it rained Corn from Heaven in *Carinthia*; Three Suns were seen in *England*. an Earthquake and Globes of fire were visible in the Elements, Armies of men appeared in the Air in *Saxony*: The Sun seemed to cleave asunder, after this followed great troubles in *Antwerp*, and the swearing sickness in *England*. The *French* make war with the Emperor, the Duke of *Somerset* in *England* is beheaded, the Queen of *Sweden* dyes, the *Turkish* Pyrates carry six thousand Christians into Captivity, out of the *Isle of Gaul* near *Malta*: The next year a very great multitude of Men and Cattle were drowned by a terrible Tempest, the Clouds suddenly dissolving, and the waters pouring down with such a stupendious violence, that the strong and massy Walls of many Cities, with divers Vineyards, and fair Houses were destroyed thereby.

XXXII. That may be looked upon as a Prodigy in the highest degree, (saith Mr. *John Gadbury*) which my worthy friend Captain *George Wharton* in his *Ephemeris* for the year 1655 hath transcribed from one *Tackius* a German Doctor of Physick, who likewise takes it out of one *Casper*; That in the year 1554 not far from the City of *Harmsted* in *Transilvania*, there were

were observed in fair and legible Characters to be read in the Heavens the following Letters. I. N. R. I. M. D. L. V. I. I. A. R. E. I. N. E. N. D. E. D. I. S. E. S. R. E. I. C. H. S. Nay that Author further affirmeth, that at *Friburg* in *Germany* the same year, on a very fair day, *Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum Iridi insidentem conspectum fuisse*; Our Lord Jesus Christ was beheld sitting upon a Rainbow, as if upon his Tribunal, to denounce the Universal Judgment. In 1558 there was seen a Blazing Star in *Spain*, at first somewhat dim, at which time *Charles* the 5th. Emperor and King of *Spain* sickned, but as his disease increased, so it grew in bigness, at last shooting its fiery streams point blank against the Monastery where he lay, in the very hour the Emperor dyed the Comet vanished; The same year in the Month of *August*, a Comet in the form of a spit appeared, of a pale envious colour, denoting a more then ordinary mortality of great Potentates; Queen *Mary* of *Hungary* and *Bohemia*, and Queen *Mary* of *England* both dye: *Christian* the 2. King of *Denmark* dyes in Prison, after 26 years imprisonment: *Henry* 2. King of *France* is slain by running at Tilt; Pope *Paul* 4. dyes, and likewise the Dukes of *Venice* and *Ferrara*, with fifteen Cardinals, besides many other Princes. In 1562 an Earthquake happened in *Constantinople*; Clashing of Weapons in the Elements, and armed men seen there; Much Thunder was heard in *England*, and five Suns seen in *Holland*; After this the *English* take many Towns in *France*; There was a great Plague in *England*, the *Muscovites* invade *Leifeland*, and the *Danes* and *Lubeckers*, *Sweden*, the *Polanders* beat the *Livonians*; Nine Thousand men were slain at *Dreux* in *Normandy*, and among them the King of *Navar*; The same year *December* 19. Mr. *John Calvin* lying in his bed sick of the Gout, it being Sunday, and the North Wind having blown strongly for two days together, some Friends coming to visit him, he said unto them; Truly I know not what is the matter, but I thought that the
last

last night I heard warlike Drums beating very loud, and I could not perswade my self but it was so; Let us go to Prayers, for surely some great business is at hand. And indeed this very day there was a great Battle fought between the Papists and Protestants not far from Paris in France, news whereof came to Geneva a few dayes after. *Clarks Examp.* 2 Part, Pag. 364.

XXXIII. In 1563 were many Locusts in France; The Heavens seem all on fire in Hungary. In England, when the true Moon was under the Earth, there appears a Moon, and a Cross with a refulgent Star at the top thereof. Soon after the Third Civil War in France began, the King of Sweden is deposed and imprisoned; The Prince of Conde is taken and shot to death with a Pistol; The Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland rebel against Queen Elizabeth; Selymus Emperor of the Turks invadeth Cyprus; The Poles and Danes fight at Sea. About this time the Duke of Alva came first into the Low-Countreys, and the future calamities of his Government, were pre-saged by a boy born at Leige, with two heads, four legs, and as many hands, the terror whereof was increased by a fire happening immediately after in the City of Mechlin, by a spark falling amongst Gunpowder, which took hold of threescore Barrels, and caused such an horrid Thunder and Earthquake, that in most of the Cities of Flanders the Men and Houses trembled at the dreadful noise; Not long after when the Prince of Orange brought an Army against the Duke, in the behalf of the Protestants, there were seen in divers places on a clear night two Armies in Battalia, brandishing their glittering Pikes, as if they were ready for a charge; The next year a Comet appears at the setting of the Sun, near the Planet Jupiter; Then followed a Famine in Austria, Sweden, Bohemia, Bavaria, Russia, Litbuania, Joachimus 2. Elector of Brandenburg dyes, and a little after Four Hundred Thousand People are drowned in Flanders and Holland besides Cattel. In 1572 there appeared a Comet

92 *The Surprising Miracles of Nature*

met or New Star in *Cassiopeia*, which continued Sixteen Months. Soon after which *Charles 9.* King of *France*, who was the Author of the bloody Massacre in *France*, dyed of extraordinary bleeding, which issued from divers parts of his body, cursing and swearing in a most dreadful manner, saith *Mr. Camden* in his History of Queen *Elizabeth*. *Sigismund* King of *Poland* likewise dyeth; The Duke of *Norfolk* in *England* is beheaded; A great Rebellion in *Ireland*.

XXXIV. In 1577 Another Blazing Star of great magnitude appeared; *Sebastian* King of *Portugal* dyed the next year of two wounds which he received in his head in his expedition for *Africa*. In 1579 a fiery Dragon, and great Troops of Ravens flew through the Air in *Germany*; A mighty Tempest happened in *Bohemia*, and an Earthquake in *Holland*; Armies are seen in the Heavens at *Antwerp*; Two armed men are visible in the Air in *Gelderland*; That which followed was, the *Polanders* take *Livonia* and *Polotia* from the *Moscovite*; The *Popish* Clergy are expelled out of the City of *Antwerp* by the People; The Emperor forbids the *Protestant* Religion at *Aken*; In 1585 a Comet appeared for many weeks together, and the next year it rained Locusts in *Thracia*, and Ducks and Geese in *Croatia*, as *Leonclavius* testifies, who was an eye-witness thereof; The Locusts fell in such multitudes that they devoured all the Countrey, and on the contrary, the Geese and Ducks fed and nourished many; *Cluverius Hist. World.* Soon after *Osman* Emperor of the *Turks*, and *Stephen* King of *Poland* both dye. In 1593 there was another terrible Earthquake at *Lar* in *Persia*, which overthrew Three Thousand Houses, crushing to death above Three Thousand Persons in their Ruins: yea the Castle though built upon the top of a solid Rock, groaned in the like affrighting downfall; *Herberts Travels.* In 1598 Feb. 25 which was a little before the Earl of *Essex*, went into *Ireland*, the Sun being almost totally Eclipsed, it was so dark for the time that the like had never been seen

seen in the Memory of Man.

XXXV. In the year 1602, there was an Earthquake in *England*, a very great Blazing Star appeared; Armies of men were seen in the Air in *France*; and warms of Grasshoppers are visible in *Germany*; After this the *Spaniards* invade *Ireland*, but are beaten thence; The *Swedes* in vain attempt *Livonia*; The *Turks* loose *Alba Regalis*, and therein Threescore Thousand men, Queen *Elizabeth* of *England* dyeth. In 1607 another Comet appeared; There were great Wars between the *Swedes* and *Danes*, and *Charles* Duke of *Lorraine* dyeth. In 1610 fiery Darts and Lances were visible in the Heavens; Four Crosses appeared in the Air at once in *Spain*; where likewise happened Thunder, and a very great Earthquake; Now the *Danes* war against the *Swedes*: The *Persians* invade *Babylon*, and kill Twenty Thousand *Turks*; *Henry* 4. King of *France* is murdered, the *Polanders* overcome the *Moscovites*, and Nine Hundred Thousand *Moors* are banished out of *Spain*. J. G. This year the strong City of *Strigounium* in *Hungary* being besieged by the *Turks*, during the siege there appeared a dreadful fiery Meteor in the Air in fashion much like a Rainbow, of a bloody red colour, which arising some height, and continuing for a space of time, at length vanished away. In 1611 three Suns were seen in the Firmament over *Vienna* in *Germany* and three years after, the Heavens over the same Town grew so red, and soon after so fearfully dark on a sudden, that the Inhabitants were much amazed, apprehending either the last day was come, or that there would follow some horrible effusion of blood. In 1616, about the same time, which was not many years before *Fredrick* Prince Elector *Palatine* was chosen King of *Bohemia*, about the midst of *October*, there appeared in the Firmament over the City of *Prague*, a Crown which gave a very great Light, and about it Armies of men fighting, as if it were who should have it; divers Mocksuns were seen in the West of *England*;

An Inundation happened in *Holland* : The Shape of an Elephant appeared in the Air in *Germany* ; A Lyon was heard, (as my Author saith) to roar in the Air, the *Venetians* at this time make war with *Ferdinand* of *Austria* ; The *Hollanders* beat the *Spaniard* in the South Sea ; The *Tartars* invade *Podolia*, burning four Cities, and four hundred Villages, carrying with them thence much booty. *J. Gad.* of *Comers*.

XXXVI. In 1618 a mighty Blazing Comet appeared in the Heavens, it was first seen *Novemb.* 18. and continued till the *Decemb.* 16. following, taking its compass over most parts of the known world in twenty eight days time, and sometimes extending its Blazing Locks forty five degrees in length ; Towards its Declination *December* 11 it passed over *London*, and so more Northwards, even as far as the *Orcades* in *Scotland* ; What miserable effects of war, ruin and devastation followed thereupon over all *Europe*, (especially to *Germany*, of which I shall give a more particular account hereafter) was obvious to all men ; There likewise was seen this year in the night over *Constantinople* a Comet in the form of a crooked sword of a vast bigness, at the first appearance it was somewhat whitish, but the higher it rose the redder it was, even like unto blood ; There were also strange sights seen in other places, inundations of Rivers, and the Ocean, Earthquakes, monstrous births, waters turned into blood, unusual and impetuous Winds and Tempests which overthrew several Towers, and tore up many Trees by the Roots ; *Pleury* a Town in *Rhetia* near *Switzerland* was overwhelmed by an Earthquake, a great Hill falling suddenly upon the City, and destroyed Fifteen Hundred Persons. This year the Emperor *Matthias*, and soon after his Empress, together with *Anne Q.* of *England* dye ; *J. Gad.* of *Prodigies*.

XXXVII. Mr. *Knowls* in his *Turkish History* Page 1348 relates, that in the year 1620 there was a strange Apparition or Vision seen by the *Turks* at *Medina*, where there Prophet *Mahomet* lyes buried, which con-

continued three weeks together, and exceedingly terrified the whole Countrey; and it was this. About September 20 there fell a very great Tempest about midnight, attended with dreadful Thunder, but when the Clouds were dispersed, and the Element clear, the People might read in *Arabick* Characters these words in the Firmament, *O why will ye believe in Lyes,* and between two and three a Clock in the Morning there appeared a Woman in white compassed about with the Sun, having a cheerful countenance, and a Book in her hand, and over against her were Armies of *Turks, Persians, Arabians,* and other *Mahometans,* in battel array ready to fight with her, but she keeping her Station, only opened the book, at the sight whereof the Armies fled away, and presently all the Lamps about *Mahomet's* Tomb were put out; For as soon as the Vision vanished, which was commonly an hour before Sun-rising, a murmuring wind was heard, unto which they imputed the extinguishing of the Lamps. The antient Pilgrims of *Mahomet's* race (who after they had visited this place never use to cut their Hair) were much amazed, because they could not conceive the meaning of this Vision, only one of the Dervices or Priests (which is a strict Religious Order among the *Turks* like the *Capuchins* among the *Papists,* and live in Contemplation) stepped up very boldly, and made the following Speech to the Company,

That the World had never but Three true Religions, every one of which had a Prophet; First God chose the Jews, and did wonders for them in Egypt, and brought them forth by their Prophet Moses, who prescribed them a Law, wherein he would have maintained them, if they had not been obstinate and rebellious, and fallen to Idolatry, whereupon he gave them over, and scattered them upon the face of the Earth; Then presently after God raised a new Prophet, who taught the Christian Religion: This good man the Jews condemned, and Crucified for a Seducer of the People, being not moved with the piety of his Life, his great

96 *The surprizing Miracles of Nature*

miracles, nor his Doctrine : yet after his death, the preaching of a few Fishermen did so move the hearts of men, that the Great Monarchs of the world bowed to his very Title, and yielded to the commands of his Ministers ; But it seems they in process of time grew as corrupt as the Jews, their Church being disjointed with the Title of Eastern, and Western, committing Idolatry again by setting up Images, with many other idle Ceremonies, besides the corruption of their Lives, so that God was weary of them too, and not only sent divisions among them, but forsook them, and dispossessed them of their chiefest Cities, Jerusalem and Constantinople ; Yet God is still the Governour of the world, and himself hath raised up another Prophet and People, even our great Mahomet, giving way to our Nation, so as no doubt we shall be happy for ever, if we can serve this God aright, and take warning by the fall of others ; But alas ! I tremble to speak it, we have erred in every point, and wilfully broke our first Institutions, so that God hath manifested his wrath by evident Signs and Tokens, keeping our Prophet from us who prefixed a time to return with all happiness to his People, so as there are now forty years past by our account ; wherefore this strange and fearful vision is a prediction of some great Troubles and Alterations ; For either the opening of the Book in the womans hand doth foretell our falling off from the first intent of our Law, whereat these armed men departed, as confounded with the guilt of their own Consciences ; Or else it signifies some other book wherein we have not yet read, and against which no power shall prevail : So that I fear our Religion will be proved corrupt, and our Prophet an Impostor, and then this Christ whom they talk of, shall shine like the Sun, and set up his Name everlastingly ; Hitherto the Company was silent, but hearing him speak so boldly, they were much incensed against him, charging him with Blasphemy, which their Law makes a Capital Crime ; whereupon they presently condemned him, and having obtained the Beglerbegs consent and warrant, they put him to death ; The Truth of this Relation was confirmed by *Ihsf Chaous* a converted Turk, who came to London about the

the year 1656 which vision, he said, did much affect him, but he added, that the grand Seignior commanded none should speak of it upon pain of death. In the year 1625 *June 29*, there began a most terrible Tempest in *Constantinople*, with such violent and continual Thunder and Lightning, that all the City appeared as if it had been on fire, at the end whereof fell such a storm of Hail that it brake the Tiles and Glasses, so that stones were taken up weighing an hundred and fifty drams, the next morning others were weighed that were about 7 or 8 ounces apiece, wherewith many were very much wounded; and *July 3* after, there happened another Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, which burnt a Woman and a Child, and slew much Cattel in the Fields. *Turkish. Hist. Pag. 1452.*

XXXVIII. And now I shall relate the Desolations and miseries of *Germany*, with the wonderful signs foregoing, as I find them recorded in credible Authors. The dreadful Blazing Comet which appeared in 1618 aforementioned, seemed to be a fore-runner thereof; It was seen often in a clear Sky in the East; In *Bohemia* and *Austria* it appeared at first with red, in other places with a *Saturnine* pale-red colour for the space of twenty seven dayes, and in some places longer; And it seemed here to be compleatly effected what has been usually said, that never did a Comet appear which was not accompanied with much evil and misery, and *Claudian* the Poet writ thus concerning them,

— *Bella canunt ignes, subitoque tumultus &c.*
They shew fierce Wars, Fire, Sword, and sudden broyls,
And by Domestick Plots, surprizing Tails,
Uncivil Civil Jars, and homebred Flames
They signifie;

98 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

And *Lucan* the Heathen Poet expresses the Prodigies before the Civil Wars of *Rome* in this manner.

———— *Superiour minaces*
Prodigiis *Troas* implorant, *Aethera*, *Pontum*, &c.

———— *The threatening Gods*
Full *Heaven* and *Earth*, and *Sea* with Prodigies,
Unheard of Stars by night adorn the Skies,
Heaven seems to flame, and through the welkin fire
Obliquely flies; State changing Comets dive
Diffuse to us their blood-portending hair,
Direful Lightnings flash in clearest Air;
Strange formed Meteors the thick Air had bred
Like javelins long; like lamps more broadly spread;
Lightning without one clap of Thunder brings
From the cold North his winged fires, and flings
Them 'gainst our Capitol; Small Stars that use
Only by night their Lustre to diffuse,
Now shine in midst of day. &c. ———

Such Civil Wars it seems were never without strange Prodigies, and no man can be ignorant of the miserable condition of *Germany* about this time, nor think thereof but with a sorrowful heart; and as the beginning of their miseries were threatned by this terrible Comet, so their continuance was still presignified by many strange things that happened out of the common course of nature, which I shall endeavour to declare as followeth; In *December* 1619 the water which runs through *Sixto* a City in *Hungaria*, (where a mighty battle was fought between the *Turks* and *Christians* in 1583) was turned into blood, and the Ice therein was likewise blood-red; Two years after which *Bathlem Gabor* routed the whole Army of the *Imperialists* in or near that place, killing above Two Thousand of them in the Field; In the same Year and Month *Decemb.* 19. 1619 at *Groningen* in *Brunswick* appeared another great Blazing Star, and two Armies

Armies one in the East, and another in the North, fighting in the Heavens, till the Northern Army seemed to be slain and defeated; Not long after a dreadful battle was fought within a few Leagues of this place betwixt the King of *Denmark*, and the Imperial General *Tilly*, in which the King lost the Field with Four Thousand of his Army who were slain and taken Prisoners; And at another place not far off about the same time, Five Hundred men were slain, and in the City of *Munden* in the same Dukedom, Two Thousand Five Hundred Citizens and Souldiers were miserably slain by the *Imperialists*; In the same year 1619, at *Vienna* in *Austria*, the water in the ditch appeared like blood for the space of 8 days, likewise three Rainbows were visible at once; And that very year in the same place and City a bloody fight happened between the *Bohemians*, and the Imperial General *Bucquoy*, wherein four thousand five hundred of the *Imperialists* were slain, and about a thousand *Bohemians*, and very many wounded. In 1620 it rained blood in *Poland* so abundantly, that the drops fell very fast from the tops of the houses; Soon after the *Tartars* with an Army of Forty Thousand men invaded *Poland*, exercising incredible Cruelty, killing in one place above Three Thousand *Polanders*; The same year likewise, the *Turks* with Ninety Thousand men fell into *Wallady*, where they had a bloody encounter with Twelve Thousand *Poles*, led by the great Chancellor of the Kingdom, who himself with the whole *Polish* Army were slain, very few or none of them escaping.

XXXIX. In *March* 1621 two Armies were seen in the Air at Noon-day in *Austria*, fiercely fighting together, with great Thundering like Ordnance and Cannon, and the next year at *Lintz* in the same Countrey, just over that City, two Swords were observed standing against each other, and two stout Armies fighting a pitch battle to the great terror of the Inhabitants; This City of *Lintz* was afterward besieged, and many times assaulted by the Boors of *Austria*, but were beat-

en off with the loss of five hundred men ; yet being many Thousands, they defeated some Imperial forces under the Duke of *Holsia* ; which was afterward revenged by Count *Papenheim*, who with an Army of six Thousand Horse and Foot fell upon them, killing Three Thousand Boors on the place, and taking many Prisoners, who were afterward executed in the City of *Litz* ; In 1622 Three Suns, and three Rainbows were seen at *Prague* and *Hildsburg* in *Germany* ; After this, a sharp Conflict happened near the City of *Prague*, between the *Imperialists* and the *Saxons*, where Nine Hundred Croats, and almost every man else, were cut in pieces by the *Saxons* before the Gates ; The City of *Hildsburg* was the same year besieged, often assaulted, and at length taken by the *Imperialists* with great slaughter of the Inhabitants, and another small Town call'd *Wickermund* about 3 Miles off, was at the same time furiously assaulted by the *Imperialists*, wherein the Garrison, making some resistance, all the Inhabitants both Men, Women and Children were put to the Sword. Some years after the City of *Prague* was besieged by the *Saxons* and *Swedes*, who for 3 days briskly fired upon the Town with their Cannon, and were answered in the same manner with great loss on both sides, Nine Thousand *Saxons* and *Swedes* being slain, and the *Imperial* Garrison within, consisting of Fourteen Hundred men, Six Hundred of them were slain. The same year 1622 in the Countrey of *Darmstadt* Trees were found whose leaves dropt blood ; and that very year many bloody Encounters happened between the *Imperialists* and Duke *Christian* of *Brunswick* in that Countrey, but especially one between him and Count *Tilly*, whose Army consisting of Twenty Two Thousand Foot, and 140 Troops of Horse, fought six hours together, till the *Imperialists* overpowering them with number, dispersed them, who flying to the Bridge, so thronged and wedged in one another, that a great many were thrust into the River *Main*, wherein there were as many drowned

drowned as were killed in the Battle ; The same year there was an Earthquake in *Italy*, and many Prodigious Lightnings and Rains in *France*; Circles were seen about the Sun and Moon in *England*; At this time the *Jesuits* and *Papists* were expelled the *Netherlands*, The Duke of *Brunswick* lost his Arm in battle; There was a great Famine in *Moravia* and *Silesia*; The City of *Bergen* in *Norway* was almost consumed by fire. July 15. 1622 in the Dukedom of *Wittenberg* it rained blood on the hands and cloaths of the labouring men, and likewise upon Trees, stones, and other places in the Fields; in these parts at the bloody battle of *Norlingen*, many thousands were slain on both sides, Commanders, and others of all sorts.

XL. In 1623 in the County of *Podibrat* in *Bohemia*, a Well for some days was turned into blood; At *Tarfin* a Town three or four Miles from *Egra*, in a Citizens house, the Table, the Walls of the Parlour, and the Chairs all sweated blood, so that it began to run along the Room; Several bloody encounters happened the next, and other years in those places, Four Thousand *Bohemians*, and Three Hundred *Imperialists* being there slain, five Troops of the Duke of *Saxony's* Horse were killed by the *Imperialists*, few escaping, and the Duke of *Fridland* Generalissimo of the *Imperialists*, with other Chief Commanders were soon after killed at *Egra*; This year in divers Towns and Villages near the *Rhine*, several bloody signs and tokens were seen, and about that time Two Thousand *Imperialists* were there slain by Count *Mansfield*, the waves by the *Rhine* being strowed with their dead bodies, and the next year in another battle with Count *Tilly*, Five Thousand were slain upon the place; about *Mansfield* and *Milantz*, the sickles, and the hands of the Labourers as they were mowing in the Fields were seen to be bloody, and soon after the *Spaniards* exercised great cruelty in those parts, the Inhabitants being miserably Massacred without respect to Age, Sex or Quality, and among other Cruelties it is remarkable

able, that the *Spanish* and *Imperial* Army coming from the *Rhine* pass'd by the City of *Gall*, where the *Papists* to secure themselves from being plundered, marked their houses with the sign of the Cross, but they were the first who felt the effects of their Insolency, being wofully pillaged, and murdered without distinction; Men and Women in Religious Orders being forced out of their Monasteries, and an Agent was sent to them from the States of the Province, who threw them down from the top of an high Rock, and so they were dash'd to pieces.

XLI. In *December*, 1624, in *Bohemia* the Sun for 10 or 12 hours was changed into divers colours, at length fiery Beams proceeded from it, and for some time seem'd to oppose the Sun, till all vanish'd like Smoke in the Air, and at last descend'd with a noise like Rockets; Two dayes before two Armies were seen in the Air, who continued a great fight and skirmish for some time against each other; The following years many bloody skirmishes and fights happen'd in those Countreys, particularly the siege of *Frankford* upon the Borders of *Silesia*, which the King of *Sweden* took by storm, and Two Thousand *Imperialists* were killed on the place, besides others who were drowned, found dead in Cellars, Chambers, and other places, who amounted to near as many more; Not far off, 300 *Swedish* Souldiers being over-confident of their valour, were put to the Sword by the *Croats*, and 300 *Imperialists* were killed soon after by the King of *Sweden* not far from thence, with the loss of 600 of his own; In *May*, 1624, at *Gierstet* in the Dukedom of *Anhalt*, a strange Prodigy appeared in the Heavens, which continued from 6 till 8 a Clock at Night, and was observed by the Inhabitants of that Town in this manner; First, an antient man came out of the Clouds in a red *Hungarian* habit, after him some grave men in the like habit, then issued out a Chariot with two Horses of divers colours, and then another Chariot with four Armed Horses; Soon after

an infinite number of People, like a swarm of Bees issued out of the Clouds in the same *Hungarian* habit, with hats and great Feathers on their heads; After them followed a man on horseback, in a great long Robe, putting the people before him; Next appeared a Comet like an Eagle, with his head hanging down; A quarter of an hour after came forth another Army, consisting of many Horse, Foot, and Chariots, having hoods with broad brims, and Feathers; In the midst of the Army appeared a man alone, drawing a long Red Cross, before which he made some Prayers with hands held up; These Forces the first Army presently routed, and defeated; All the rest marching to *Aherleben*, &c. at last vanished away in several Red Clouds. Not long after Three Thousand of *Mansfields* men, and a Thousand of the *Imperialists* were slain at this place; The day before it rained blood at *Weinham* in *Bohemia*, and two Armies appeared in the Sky skirmishing together; It likewise rained blood at *Friburg* in *Silesia*, and two Armies also appeared in the Heavens fighting for a long time together; Soon after the Duke of *Freidland* sending Colonel *Pechman* with Seven Thousand Horsemen and Dragoons to pursue the *Danish* and *Weinman*'s Troops, there began a hot skirmish between them, where at last most of the *Danish* Forces were killed, and ten Companies of them taken Prisoners, and *Pechman* himself with divers other Officers were slain. The same year *May* 8. a strange Tempest happened at *Ratisbone*, for it being calm, and only a small rain, two dark Clouds on a sudden met together, and instantly a Wind mingled with Fire proceeded from thence, which immediately raised a mighty Tempest, which tore up Trees by the Roots in a Wood near the City, carrying them afar off; and thence extending it self to the City, in a short time it overturned above Two Hundred Houses in the Town and Suburbs, neither was a Chimney left standing, the Windows of the Church of the *Emerits* was much.

much shattered, one of the Steeples laid flat on the ground, and the other was broke off in the middle; Two other Principal Steeples, and a Cloyster were likewise blown down; This was supposed to be raised by some damned Sorcerer, who by the assistance of the Prince of the Air, had caused this mischief. The Instrument of this desolation was limited both to time, place, and persons; the time was not above a quarter of an hour; the *Havizant* (if we may so call it) did not spread beyond the City, only rentng up some few Trees, and killed 4 men; some years after, this City of *Ratibon* was straightly besieged, and assaulted by the *Imperial* and *Bavarian* Army, consisting of Thirty Thousand Foot, and Fifteen Thousand Horse, being battered night and day with an Hundred Pieces of Ordnance, but were valiantly repulied by the *Swe-dish* Garrison, with the slaughter of Four Thousand *Imperialists* in the last assault; they defending the place to admiration, the *Imperialists* confessing they lost Eight Thousand men upon the place, and Six Thousand who ran away; They made Fifteen Thousand Canon shot upon the Town, and cast above Two Thousand Granadoes into it, endured Four Hundred Sixty Five Salles from within the City, and at last they surrendered it to the *Imperialists* upon Honourable Terms.

XIII. In the year 1625 near *Troppan* in *Silesia* a great multitude of little Crows or *Jackdaws* appeared in the Air, who fought as it were in a set Battle, and skirmished so eagerly that abundance of them were slain, and the Boors gathered some sacks full of dead ones, which they brought into the City. The year after the *Winnish* Forces killed Four Thousand *Imperialists* near this Town, and a while after in another battle the *Saxons* killed Five Thousand more of the *Imperialists*. In *February* the same year, in divers places in *Silesia* were exceeding great Tempests accompanied with Thunder and Lightning; At *Bressan* the spires of two Chief Churches, the Foundation of the

the Starehouse, and many other curious buildings were overturned into the Town, great Trees, and a new strong built Bridge were torn up, and driven to divers places, so that the next day nothing of them remained; At *Nissa* another City, the chief Church was struck with a terrible Thunder-clap, and the Steeple thereby battered to the very ground work; Not long after at *Breslau* the Moon appeared bigger than ordinary, and four great Ordnance or Canon were visible in the Air, to the great terror of the Inhabitants, which afterward seemed to be shot off, with incessant Thunders and Volleys against each other; Soon after the *Swedes* and *Saxons* beat the *Imperialists* near this City, Twelve Hundred of them being slain; May 3. 1627, a Circle appeared about the Sun at *Hamborough*, and in the edge thereof five other Suns were visible, with a Rainbow between them; Afterwards two other Suns with another part of a Rainbow were seen, one of them extending toward the West, the other toward the South, at last all vanished in a burning smoak. Some Miles from this City soon after, the *Imperialists* cut in pieces 300 *Danes*, and took three Thousand of their Horsemen who stuck in the *Morish* places Prisoners; Another Conflict likewise happened, between *Hamborough* and *Stord* about this time, where a *Swedish* Regiment of *Lepers*, and four Companies of *Monroes* were all killed by *Papenheim*, 19 Colours, and some Captains and Officers being taken Prisoners; This year a great Beam was visible in the Air in *France*; An Earthquake happened in *England*; Now the *Polanders* recover many places from the *Tartars*; The *Persians* beat the *Turks*; The *English* take the Isle of *Rhee*, and lose it again. The *Hollander* beats the *Spaniard* in the *Indies*. *Jo. Gad. of Prodigis.*

XLIII. The year 1628 was full of portentous Prodigies, which were seen in many places; at *Sunderburg* in *Pomerania*, the Heavens being open, an Army appeared coming from the North, in the Van were
Mus-

Muskets and Pioneers, after whom followed Canons and Ordnance, the Rere was brought up by Horsemen ; Another Army came forth on the other side against them, where began a hot fiery skirmish between them, but the victory inclined to the Northern Army, at last a Beam with fiery Rayes hovered over the head of the Northern Conqueror, which continued thus prodigiously for many hours ; A great Astronomer of the *English* Nation gave his Judgment upon the great Conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter*. *July 18. 1623* to this purpose, that the effects thereof would be felt in the North, and North-East parts of Europe in particular ; and in general, that it would produce Wars, Famines, Plagues, &c. over all ; and the places subject thereunto be nameth, that is Italy, France: Bohemia, Silesia and Germany ; Of Provinces he likewise nameth, Prussia, Brandenburg, Stiria, Hassia and Saxony ; Yea he descendeth to Cities, naming, Rome, Prague, Magdenburg, Coblantz, Ulme, Brunswick, Aufburg ; He sayes likewise it will go hard with the Roman Empire, Clergy, and Jesuits ; He speaks of a King of a true Religion, who should do all this, and that much happiness should succeed. How this Observation was verified, was visible to all ; For in the year 1630 *Gustavus Adolphus* King of Sweden having conquered many Towns from the King of Poland both in Prussia and Lixonia, came with an Army of about Twelve Thousand men out of a Northern Corner of the World, and landed first in Pomerania, not far from Sunderburg, where the aforesaid Prodigy was seen, from whence he first beat out the whole Imperial Army, and never returned without the Olive Branches of Victory, so that it will be judged rather Romance than true History in Ages to come to relate these German Conquests of his. For how can it be easily believed, that two thirds of Germany should in about two years space be wrested from so puissant an Emperour, formidable for his greatness, and confident upon the power of his Colleagues and Upholders, vast in extent, terrible for

for its Armies and Commanders, beyond expectation successful in all its Enterprizes, and which knew no bounds but the *Alpes* and the Ocean ; And yet that this Empire with its Forces and Garrisons, which held so many Princes at a bay, was at last it self constrained to take the *Swedish* Yoak, which was put upon it by him who entred into it with only Eleven or Twelve Thousand men, and performed it all in two years and an half ; This I say is truly admirable, and if he had gone on another year what might he not have performed. In this year 1628, *March 11.* at *Bisheim* a Village near *Strasburg* a poor woman was delivered of a strange Monster, which was, two Females, whose Bodies were joined together about the middle, their hands, feet and heads being perfect and whole, but there was only seen in them one Heart, and one Lungs ; This Prodigy might preface the great mischiefs, damages, depredations, and vast impositions which usually accompany the Wars, and the unruly Souldiers, and fell very severely upon the Inhabitants in and about *Strasburg* ; Strange was that Thunder-clap which happened at *Brig* in *Silesia* the same year, wherein the immediate power of God appeared ; About Noon *May 29,* 1628 a Thunderbolt fell upon one of the Churches of that Town, broke down the door, and slew a poor woman in the Porch as she was praying, wounding in its passage many other Women and Children ; After this it went to another Charch in the Suburbs, where the Minister was reading, doing him no more harm, but only singing the hair of his head, neither were the People hurt thereby, who at the same instant fell down flat with their faces on the ground ; *October 13,* the same year a terrible Thunder fell upon the Church at *Sagan*, another Town in *Silesia*, from whence it burst out of a Window, attended with such Wind, Rain, Hail, and Tempest, that it tore up the Trees by the very Roots, blasted the Herbs and Fruit trees, and so harrassed the Countrey for a League about, that the damage was very considerable

nable ; After the Thunder and Tempest, there appeared just over the Church fiery beams like a sword and a rod, the Bells in the Steeple began to sound and ring without the help of man, and 3 miles off, the Heavens for the space of an hour seemed open and fiery ; Not long after a terrible fight happened between this Town of *Sagan* and *Sternaw*, both in *Silesia*, where the *Swedes* and *Saxons* killed about two thousand *Imperialists*, and not far thence soon after two thousand more were slain.

XLIV. In 1530 a very miraculous thing happened at *Guisnay* in *Hassia*, two souldiers lying for safety in that Town, one of them complained to the other who was in bed with him, that he was very cold, the other answered, he could not believe it, in regard that his own body was very hot and wet, intreating him to touch and feel his side ; which when he had done, finding his hands exceeding wet, and as it were glued and congealed together, he suspected something extraordinary, and looking on his hands by the light of the Moon he judged them to be bloody, whereat being much terrified, he called for a Candle, and found his fellow souldier very weak, and his left side, and the sheets of the bed to be bloody, and endeavouring to wash off the blood from his side, presently more blood issued out ; at length after the space of an hour, it ceased of it self, About three handfuls of blood were taken out of the sheets, this, with the relation of other circumstances they presented in the morning to their Commander, who inquired of him how he had felt himself that Night ; the souldier answered, *That he had been extreem ill for some time, but was afterward restored to his former health ;* The two next years after this Prodigy, this goodly Countrey of *Hassia* was miserably harrased by several Armies, and the Inhabitants were barbarously and inhumanely treated by the Emperors' Army, and if the Prince or his poor subjects did at any time complain and petition for Justice or redress, they were only scorned and reject-
ed

ed for their labours, so that they were forced to endure quarterings, taxpations, burnings, robberies and sacking of their Towns and Villages, yea the slaughter of innumerable innocent Subjects of all sorts, without being able to obtain any pity or compassion from their enemies ; The same year 1630, in *May* the *Novemburg* Carrier, and several Passengers in their journey toward *Hamborough*, passing by the Town of *Coburg* at night, they observed with great admiration a prodigious fire going in and out of the Town, and heard a mighty noise like the discharging of Canons ; Two years after which General *Wallenstein* assaulted this Town with his Souldiers, and great Guns, but was so stoutly entertained by those within, that after the loss of a great many of the *Imperialists*, he was forced (though he had besieged it above Twenty Months) to break up his siege and depart.

XLV. In *May* 1631 at *Hall* in lower *Saxony*, the water was turned into blood, and about the middle of this Month, this Town was taken by *Tilly*, and afterward retaken from him by their natural Lord, and presently again repossessed by *Tillies* Forces ; and he himself after the battle of *Leipsick* made his escape thither that night, and had his wounds dressed by the Town Barber ; Whilst *Tilly's* Army lay in the Town, one of his Chief Officers saw blood prodigiously dropping from the House wherein he lay, whereupon he said, *What ? Must we bleed ? will the King of Sweden beat us ? That's impossible ;* But it happened otherwise, for *Hall* was not above 7 *Dutch* Miles distant from the place of battle, wherein the *Imperial* Army was utterly routed, and miserably destroyed in the chase, and if the King had but had 3 hours more of daylight, it was judged that hardly a Thousand of the Enemy had escaped, one of their own Relations affirming, that there were Fifteen Thousand of the *Imperialists* slain upon the place, and in the pursuit that night, and the day following ; Its said *Tilly's* courageous heart could not refrain from tears, when he perceived

ceived such woful destruction among his brave old Souldiers, his Army consisting of Forty Four Thousand stout men being usually termed *Invincible*. The next day the King besieged *Hall*, which was yielded to him and soon after the Castle; But a while after, *Pappenheim* and the *Imperialists* again retook this City, exercising all manner of Barbarism upon the Inhabitants; This year likewise in the time of the siege of *Magdeburg*, a City Captains Wife dying in Child-bed desired to be ript open, which being done, they found a Boy almost as big as one of 3 years old, who had an head-piece, and an Iron Breastplate on his Body, great boots of the *French* fashion, and a bag by his side with two things therein like Musket bullets; This horrible Prodigy no doubt portended the deplorable destruction of that City, which happened *May 10. 1631*, when a general assault was made upon the Town by the *Imperialists*, the Walls were mounted in an instant, the Town entred, and the Souldiers fell to killing; At the same instant a fire, none knew how, broke out, and it being a very windy day, on a sudden all became one mighty Flame, the whole Town being in twelve hours time turned to Cinders, (except some few Fisher-houses) six Goodly Churches were burnt, the Cathedral by the diligence of the Monks and Souldiers being preserved; There were at least Twenty Thousand People killed, burnt and smothered, beside Six Thousand drowned in the River *Elbe*; Two days after *Tilly* came into the Town, and finding some Hundreds of Women and Children in the great Church, he gives them their lives, and some bread to maintain them.

XLVI. *June 18. 1631*, at *Asherleben* in the lower *Saxony* toward Evening two strong Armies were observed in the Heavens, who prepared themselves to fight, one came out of the North, and the other out of the South, after a long fight the Northern Army obtained the victory; This Prodigy was seen two days in a cleer Sky for the space of an hour, after the battle

tle, a Person in a long Garment appeared two several times, shooting with a Bow at the Leader of the Southern Army ; The very next Month, *July 8.* happened a sharp conflict between this Town and *Tangermond*, where the King of *Sweden* routed Twenty Companies of the *Imperialists*, and took 14 Ensigns, and soon after 1500 more were slain ; These slaughters Count *Tilly* resolving to revenge, sets forward toward the King with twenty six thousand men, and fell upon him in his Trenches, but were beaten off with a miserable butchery, so that it was judged *Tilly* lost in the whole by these encounters near seven thousand men. In this year 1631 upon the fatal seventh of *September*, in the bloody battle of *Leipswick*, General *Tilly* himself was wounded twice or thrice with Pistol shot, and his whole Army routed as aforementioned ; Upon the place of Battle which the Enemy had left for the King of *Sweden* there sate a flock of Birds, which springing up, at the King's coming took their flight directly over *Tillies* Army, and fetching a Circle about them (which the *Romans* would have counted a happy presage) they turned again toward the Kings Army, as it were to fetch him victory ; But the King had a better presage on his side than a Flock of Birds, *God with us*, was his Watch-word, which together with his Valour, and his Sword, obtained him the Victory.

XLVII. In 1632 General *Tilly* received another shot of a Musket, a little above his Knee at a skirmish between the King of *Sweden* and himself, whereof he dyed *April 20*, after having 4 splinters cut out of his Thigh ; A few years before that long, cruel, and bloody battle was fought at *Lutzen*, the water of the Ditch in that Town was turned to blood, which Prodigy seemed accomplished *November 6* this year, wherein the *Swedes* after nine hours continual fighting absolutely overthrew the *Imperial* Army ; The morning wherein this great battle was fought was very misty, the King of *Sweden* had a Divine to pray with

with him, and other Ministers at the head of every Regiment ; about 10 a Clock the Fog cleared up, and the King going first to his own Subjects, spake to this purpose, *My dear Brethren carry your selves bravely this day, fight valiantly in Gods Name for your Religion, and your King, which if you do, Gods Blessing, and the Peoples praises shall be your Reward, and you shall for ever retain an honourable memorial, nor will I forget to reward you Nobly ; But if you play the Cowards, I here take God to witness, not a bone of you shall ever return again to Sweden ; To the Germans, who joyned with him, he thus expressed himself, My Brethren, Officers, and Fellow-Souldiers, I most earnestly intreat and beseech you to make full Tryal of your valour this one day, fight manfully against your enemies this day both with me, and for me ; be not faint-hearted in the battle, nor upon any account discouraged, set me before your eyes, even me, who without the least fear or dread, am ready for your cause to adventure both Life and Bloud ; if you do this, no doubt God himself will reward you from Heaven with a most glorious victory, of which your selves and your posterity shall have the benefit, if you do not, farewell for ever to your Religion, and your selves must for ever remain in slavery. The Souldiers of both Nations answered the King with joyful Acclamations, who thereupon added ; *Now my hearts let us fall bravely on our enemies, and the God of Heaven prosper our endeavours ;* and so casting up his Eyes to Heaven with a loud voice he said, *Jesus, vouchsafe this day to be my strong helper, and give me courage to fight for thy glory, and for the honour of thy Name.* Then drawing his sword, he waved it over his head, and advanced the foremost of all his Army ; Amongst the Kings own Guard were several *English* and *Scottish* Gentlemen ; He himself was attired in a plain Buff Coat, without Armour, and being required to put on his Corset, he said, *The Lord God is my Armour ;* His word was God with us ; The Imperialist was, *Jesus Maria ;* The King said, *I thank God I have both Wind and Sun to favour me.**

The Field where the Battle was fought was a plain Champion Countrey, but yet it had many Ditches, which served *Wallestein* the Imperial General for Breast-works, and the Kings Horse in passing over them were some of them overthrown, there were likewise two little Hills upon which *Wallestein* had planted his Great Guns, and his Army was so large that it extended 2 Miles in length, the Armies coming within view, the Canon began to play on both sides, but those of the *Imperialists* being planted upon steady and fixt Batteries, did very great Execution; Whereas the Kings gave fire in motion, which he observing, and not liking the sport, caused his Army to advance upon the very mouth of the Canon; The *Imperialists* kept their ground, expecting the *Swedes* fury would be over before they could get over the Ditches, and beat out the Musqueteers; yet they overcame these difficulties, and their left Wing engaged with *Wallesteins* right; Then the King advancing with his right Wing, and observing where the *Croats* or *Crabats* stood, and where the *Curassiers* were who were covered with black Armour from head to foot, calling Colonel *Stalbach* to him he said, As for those Fellowes the *Crabats*, I care not for them, but charge me those black Fellows singly; for they are the men that will undo us; The King fought at the head of his Squadron, himself being foremost with his Pistol in one hand, and his Sword in the other, and thus charging upon the *Curassiers*, he was there overlaid with numbers, insomuch that his men being in danger to be encompassed, were forced to give ground, and retire towards their body; where the King received a shot in his Left Arm, which he not feeling at first, would have led on still, but soon after perceiving the blood to issue out abundantly, and that part of his bone was broken, He called to Duke *Albert* of *Saxon-Lauenburg*, saying, *Comen* I am sore wounded, help me to make my retreat; which whilst the Duke and his Assistants were about to do, an Officer of the *Curassiers* who too well knew the King,

114 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

King comes up, and said. *This is the right Bird*, and so discharging his Pistol, shot him through the body, and himself was presently shot dead upon the place; The King was held up in his saddle, but presently fell; His horse also was shot, and so ran away without his Master;

Just at this time fell a great mist, the Sun which before shined very brightly, on a sudden muffling up his face in a mourning Cloud, as if not able to look upon the fall of the King of Sweden; The *Imperialists* being now masters of the Kings Body fell to stripping it, one getting his spurs, another his sword, another his Ring, and another his Buff-coat, &c. every one being greedy to get some part of his spoils; But before they could carry away his Body, the *Swedes* returned, and so charged their Enemies that they were forced to retreat, whereupon *Stalhausen* recovering his Body, carried it away in an Ammunition Waggon privately, so that few of his own Army knew of his death; All this while the four *Swedish* Brigades of Foot were hotly ingaged, and got ground of the *Imperialists*; The horse likewise after an hours fight drove them back, and got possession of seven Pieces of their Ordnance; but by this time the mist was so extreamly thickned by the smোক that the *Swedes* could not see to pursue their advantage, yet it pleased God to strike part of the *Imperial* Army with a pammick fear, that above a thousand *German* Horse ran all away together, one amongst them crying out; *Oh I know the King of Sweden well enough, he is best at the latter end of the day*; But the Chiefest fright was amongst the Ladies, and the Captains Wives, and other Women in the Reer of the Army, many of whom getting out of their Coaches, cut asunder the harness, and mounted stradling upon the bare Horses backs, and so scudded away among the Souldiers; Several Women and Children were there trodden to death, nor did the Horsemen stay till they had fled divers Miles; But in the heat of the Battle, Count *Pappen-*
heim

him one of the *Imperial* Generals who was before sent for, came in with his Horse and Dragoons, by whose coming the charge was again renewed, but just as he was ordering his Horse he was shot with a Falconet Bullet, whereof he presently dyed; His Officers flocking about him cryed out, *O our General is slain, Our General is slain*; and thereupon turning their Horse-heads, they ran out of the battle without a stroke striking; But the other *Imperialists* who were encouraged by his coming, maintained the fight with admirable resolution, yet the charge was sustained by the *Swedes* with much Gallantry for two full hours, wherein the greatest loss fell upon two Brigades of old *Swedish* Souldiers whom the King did much rely upon, for these old Blades stood their Ground, till the Earth was covered with their bodies, yet they dyed not unrevenged, for they slew many of the *Imperialists*. and amongst them divers of great Quality.

Duke Bernard was very severely beset by the right Wing of the *Imperialists* that day, but no man ever behaved himself more gallantly than himself, charging his enemies no less than twelve several times; A little before Sun-set the Mist cleared up, and then Duke Bernard took a survey of his Army, which he could not do since he heard of the Kings death till now; He spake chearfully to the Officers and Souldiers, encouraging them to a new engagement, and though he found the most part of his Army in great disorder, yet with much pains he rallyed them for a new onset, though not without much regret in the Souldiers one saying to another, *alas Comerade, what must we fall on again*; The other replying, *Come, if we must, let us do it bravely, and make a day of it*. The hearts of the *Imperialists* quaked for fear, seeing the *Swedes* advancing in such good order against them; and thereupon their horse began to retreat, which the *Swedes* perceiving, they charged so home with their Great Guns, as put them into great confusion; But then again so great a mist fell, that the *Swedes* could not dis-

discern to pursue their Enemies, so that the fight was only maintained about the Wind-mills, which continued with much briskness till six a Clock at night, when the *Imperialists* gave it quite over; This cruel and bloody Battle lasted above nine hours, and then Count *Wallestein* marched away toward *Leipswick*, leaving the Field and Victory to the *Swedes*, who lodged upon the ground all night, where they heard the lamentable groaning of the dying and wounded on both sides, it being a frosty cold night, wherein many a gallant man dyed of his wounds, who probably with seasonable help might have recovered.

The next morning the *Swedes* found the *Imperialists* had left all their Great Guns behind them, there were slain of the *Swedes* Three Thousand, and of the *Imperialists* about Four Thousand upon the place, besides which the Boors killed near a Thousand more of them who fled stragling away; The wounded were as many more as the slain, on the *Swedes* side were lost the King himself whose death can never be sufficiently lamented, his enemies themselves giving him this Honourable Testimony, *That he was the bravest Enemy, and the best Captain that ever was in Christendom*, so that the *Swedes* and *Protestants* found themselves to have gotten but a doleful, and a woful victory, losing that incomparable Conqueror, who was alone worth many hundreds of others; But he is dead, and was as heartily bewailed of the *Germans* as of his own Subjects, who yet professed, *That their loss was unspeakable*, and in both their Chronicles shall his honourable memory be for ever famous, and his name shall live in their mouths in after Ages; Yet did not this glorious King dye, without some singular and miraculous Prodiges, which happened about that time in his own Kingdom of *Sweden*; Amongst others, at the very same hour and time when this battle of *Lutzen* was fought, there appeared, just over the Castle, and Royal Palace at *Stockholm* a Virgin or Damsel holding in one hand a burning Candle, and in the other a white handkerchief

kerchief which she waved about ; It was likewise noted and observed, that all the doors in the Castle though they were shut and lockt, yet they three several times opened of themselves ; At the same time a considerable River in *Sweden* was sudderly dried up, so that for a whole day any one might go over it dry foot ; Also in *Smaland* a Province of that Kingdom, the Bells without the help of any man began to ring, and found out, to the great astonishment of the Inhabitants.

Several other brave *Swedish* Commanders fell with their King, and many great men of the *Imperialists* ; General *Wallestrin* at first intended only to make a retreat to *Leipswick*, but the *Imperial* Souldiers as soon as they heard the Drums beat a retreat, fell immediately to running, and the fright was so great that most of them never came into order again, the Chief Officers confest, *That if the Swedes had sent but one Thousand Horse after them, they might have cut off their whole Army.* The King of *Sweden* was of a Majestick Countenance and a gallant Stature, above six foot high, of a strong Judgment, natural vigilancy, and unweariedness ; A sudden danger seldom astonished his Judgment, still shewing most vigor, where there was most need of it ; He was exceeding temperate in his Dyet, his feeding was upon strong and souldierly Meats ; But that which was most commendable in him was his Religion, both Publick and Private ; He was frequent in Prayers and Thanksgivings upon every emergent occasion ; He would pray a Shipboard, on Shoar, in the Field, in the midst of a Battle, as if Prayers alone were the surest pice of his whole Armour ; He was a strict observer of Martial Discipline, and a severe punisher of Misdemeanours in his Camp ; when he first came into *Germany*, he saw that many women followed his Army ; whereupon coming to a great River, his Men and Waggon being passed over, he caused the Bridge to be broken down, hoping thereby to be rid of his lumber, but they on a sudden making a

terrible Shreik, the Souldiers on the other side vowed not to stir a foot till the women were fetched over; whereupon the King finding that this ill humour was so generally dispersed amongst his men, that it was dangerous to purge it all at once, smiled out his anger for the present, permitting what he could not amend, yet this abuse he afterward reformed by degrees: His Army won the day though they lost their King, which occasioned one to compose this brief Elegy.

*Upon this place the Great Gustavus dyed,
Whilst victory lay bleeding by his side.*

A little before his death being in discourse with his Chaplain Dr. Fabricius, he said, *That he thought God would ere long take him away, because the People did so overvalue and deify him; At his first coming into Germany having a design upon Stetin, and his Army being now upon the shore, and his Boats ready on the River to imbarck them, but the Wind having been contrary for several days before, the King observing it, kneeling down in the sight of his Souldiers with his hands lifted up to Heaven, thus expressed himself; O thou most just God, thou certainly knowest that I did not at first undertake this Enterprize out of any rashness or ambition, but for the glory of thy most Holy Name, and the defence of the Truth of thy Gospel, here now therefore I call upon thee O God, and most humbly beseech thee, that with the Air of thy favour, and with a prosperous wind, thou wouldst be pleased to breath upon this my undertaking for Christ his sake, Amen; No sooner were his Prayers ended, but through Divine Providence the Wind turned about with so full a Gale, that the whole Fleet passing up the River Oder, in two hours time sailed up Twenty Miles, and unexpectedly came to an Anchor within a Mile of Stetin, whereby he wonderfully defeated the Designs of the Imperialists, who intended within two days after to have laid siege to that City, had they not been thus miraculously prevented; When this*
King

King came first to the Crown, he resolved to lay siege to Nottenburg Castle, which the *Muscovite* had given his Father for some Assistance which he had afforded him; This Castle stood in an Island in the mouth of the most raging and swift River of *Nerva*, his Commanders despairing of taking it, and being unwilling their young King should receive a Repulse in his first attempts, they laboured to dissuade him from the action, yet he continued resolute to pursue it, and see how Almighty God wrought for him; The Besieged *Muscovites* were stricken with such Thrushes, Warts and Blisters in their Throats and Mouths, they could neither chew their Meat, nor swallow it down, whereupon they parlied and yielded up that impregnable Castle to him, wherein he found a whole years provision of Victuals, besides abundance of Ammunition.

Not long after this, he had a difference with the *Dantzickers*, and they had prepared twenty or thirty stout men of War, intending with the first opening of the Spring, to have burnt up the Kings Navy in their Harbour; but toward the end of Winter, when this narrow *Swedish* Sea was frozen a yard or two deep, this young King caused his Boors to cut open the Ice for ten or twelve Miles together, which done, he came suddenly one night with his Fleet upon the *Dantzickers*, and burnt, sunk, and took most of their Fleet; Also in his Wars with the King of *Poland*, he conquered so many Towns from him in *Prussia* and *Livonia*, that he enforced him by the mediation of King *Charles* of *England*, to make peace with him; In these wars with the *Polanders* his Army was never great, having for the most part not above Five Thousand Men, and yet with them he fought several Battles, beat and wearied out two *Imperial* Armies, took in the great and strong City of *Elbing* with divers others and finally obtained his end upon his Enemies, though they were able at the same time to have come upon him with such a number of Horse as had, according

to humane Reason, been sufficient to have carryed him away, and five such Armies as his was ; He was slain in the Battel at *Lutzen*, Nov. 16. 1632. in the 28 year of his Age.

XLVIII. At *Buheim* a Village near *Friburg* in *Germany*, there happened this strange Prodigy, there appeared in the Heavens a Twofold Rainbow, one white as Snow, and the other exceeding black, besides another of a fiery colour : The next day from eleven, till two after Noon, another Aspect of a very white colour appeared : And about the time at *Franestein* hard by a Woman having bought some bread, and carrying it home, when she came to cut it, blood issued out from it ; This *Franestein* is a pretty Town upon an Hill some sixteen *English* miles from *Dresden*, it was taken by the *Imperialists* in the year 1632 by *Scalado*, and meeting with some opposition, they in revenge cruelly put all, both Souldiers and Inhabitants to the sword : And *October* 4. they assaulted *Friburg* a handsome Town upon the River *Mulda* some 10 *English* miles to the West of *Franestein*, and taking it by storm, they likewise miserably destroyed the Inhabitants ; near this place, Count *Holeks* men, (who was then Commander of those *Imperial* Forces) taking displeasure against a Minister of excellent Learning in that Countrey, they first hewed him all to pieces with their swords, and then flung his mangled Limbs to the Dogs to be eaten ; But the Dogs, as if astonished at such savage cruelty, would not so much as touch his flesh, or lick a drop of his blood ; whereupon his Friends gathered up his pieces the next day, and buried them ; and one of their own Authors relates, That the *Cyabats* shewed themselves ingenious to invent New Torments for the poor Protestants, and that it was frequent with them for want of Dogs meat to feed them with humane flesh, which if so, we may truly say, That though the Dogs were the

the Man-eaters, yet certainly the Crabats were the Cannibals.

XLIX. In the month of *August*, 1632. at *Kempten* in *Swabeland* a strange Monster was born of a Citizens Wife, the head was altogether fat, and without ears, the hands were stretcht out, and appeared all bloody between the flesh and the skin, in the left hand there was a Rope, the Belly had two wounds as if prickt by a Sword, and the left knee seemed as if it had been twice broken, a cord being tyed about it: This goodly Town of *Kempten* was held by the *Imperialists*, and after many furious assaults was taken by the *Suedes* in 1633. The Imperial Commander went to *Reitaw*, where he was beheaded, because he had so soon surrendered the Place; Many other bloody skirmishes happened about this Town, and what miseries that, and the Countrey thereabout endured, when it was besieged, and re-taken by the *Imperialists* can hardly be exprest; It was brought to such extremity of Famine, not much inferiour to those dreadful ones of *Samaria*, and *Jerusalem* recorded in Holy Scripture, or of *Saguntum* in *Spain*; *Perusium* in *Hetruria*, or *Tuscany* in *Italy* mentioned by other Authors; Many brave Citizens out of this and the Neighbour Towns were compelled by necessity to bear Arms for a livelihood; Horse-flesh was sold at high rates, Dogs, Cats and Vermin were counted as good as Venison; For all Commerce and Trade being hindred, bread-corn was at an excessive rate, and hardly to be purchased for money; In *February*, 1633. at *Dobenbutz* a Village in *Althenburg*, blood sprang out of a Fish-pond, with such a filthy savour, that if it were touched, they could not wash off the stink in 2 or 3 days; This Countrey was the same year lamentably ruined and plundered, and the beastly cruelty and licentiousness of the Soldiers was exceeding monstrous. Many fine Towns and Villages were robbed and burnt. Ashes for defending themselves, and the Inhabitants thereof, as well as of *Dobenbutz* miserably slaughtered: The Wo-

122 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

men, yea, Ladies and Gentlewomen, were tyed and coupled together like Beasts and Dogs, and sent into the Woods to be ravished, and for making resistance, they had their cloaths stript off, their Bodies whipt, and their ears cut off, and in this deplorable posture were sent home again; The Souldiers and Crabats got many Thousand head of Cattel together, and what beast soever did not readily follow them, they killed them, lest they should serve some Hereticks; many other horrid Barbarisms were committed by them, as if they had believed that a Countrey was never throughly conquered, till it were utterly destroyed by Sword and Fire.

L. In 1633. *March 6.* about 8 a Clock in the Evening over the Town of *Bibrach* two long swords were seen in the Air, one Fiery, and the other red as blood; many fierce encounters happened about this time and place between the *Swedes* and *Imperialists*, Count *Horn* the *Swedish* Field Marshal killing near six hundred *Crabats*, and as many more *Spanish* and *Italian* Souldiers who came to aid the Emperor, perished by Cold, Famine and Sword by the way, that betwixt *Ulm* and *Bibrach* a thousand dead Carcasses were found, so that a third part of the Army were lost; some Months after, four Regiments of the *Imperialists* were surprized and killed by the *Swedes* betwixt this Town and *Isne*; and six hundred other *Imperialists* being abroad were also taken, and most of them slain. In *March 1634*; *Gustavus Horn* besieged the City of *Bibrach*, wherein were thirteen hundred men, offering the Imperial Governour good conditions upon his first approach, which being refused, he battered the Town so long with his Ordnance, that he won the Enemies works, and made a breach into the Walls. Then the Governour sending out a Trumpet, desired reasonable Terms, or else he would defend it to the last man, and threatening first of all to blow up all the Protestant Citizens, whom he had already lockt up in the Town-house, and into a Cellar; But having
already

already refused fair offers, the *Swedes* denyed them now, and prepared all things ready for another assault, advancing toward the Breach, when at the same instant, the Protestant Ministers with several Women came out of the Town, making most pitiful Lamentation to the *Swedish* General, signifying that it would certainly cost them all their Lives, because the Town-house was already undermined, and the Mine filled with Powder, and that they fearfully expected to be blown up immediately. Out of Commiseration therefore to these poor people, another Agreement was offered to the Governour, and Liberty granted them to march out with their Swords only, which was accepted, and the Protestants thereby saved.

LI. In 1634 *June* 23. another Prodigy happened at *Dresden* in *Saxony*; About five a Clock in the Evening the Sun first appeared white as Snow, and then suddenly became dark as if covered by a Mist; It appeared first in the form of a Crown, and then like a Feather, and then red as blood, in which posture it continued for about half an hour, and then returned to its natural shape, but retained its sanguine colour till it went down, and the Moon at her rising retained the same bloody Aspect, till she was no longer seen in that Horrison; About the same time at *Berlin* in the Marquissate of *Brandenburg* it rained blood and brimstone; and the next year in *November*, at *Izeho* a Town in *Holstein* it rained thick blood, whose drops being used as Ink, represented true natural blood in writing; It is scarce credible how many bloody Conflicts and Encounters happened between these two Countreys, the same year, and the next following; but more especially that sore and bloody Battel at *Witstock*, wherein seven Thousand *Imperialists* were slain by the *Swedes*, six whole Regiments being wholly cut off, with several great Commanders; Fifteen Hundred Prisoners, Fourteen Pieces of Ordnance, and Eight Thousand Waggon were also left to the *Swedish* Conqueror; Of the *Swedes* likewise were a Thousand

124 *The Surprising Miracles of Nature*

slain upon the place of Battel. In the same year, 1634. July 24. at *Melnick* where the *Saxon* Army quartered, there was a strange Apparition in the Air, which was thus related by Eye-witnesses; About Evening, when the Elector of *Saxony's* Chaplain was at Prayers, there appeared a sign in the sky like a fiery Beam, and a while after, another in the form of a Scepter fiery red, just over the House where he was Preaching, as soon as Sermon was ended, and the Chaplain had pronounced *Amen*, the sign vanished out of sight; After this the same Apparition was seen again of divers others; That year, and some others following, the *Crabats* like Vermin in a warren, ransacked, plundered and pillaged what places soever they came to, sparing neither Churches, Cloysters, nor Noble mens Houses, but robbed and dismembred the Countrey people, ravished the Women, deflowered the Maids, burnt the Villages and Towns, and committed all manner of mischievous Insolencies and Villanies.

LII. About this time Man and Beast and Fowls of the Air all seemed now to be at irreconcilable difference, and *Germany* was the Stage wherein they acted their Tragedies; At *Hessen* in *March* 1635. there met together two Armies of strange Birds, which fought as it were in a set Battel; And near *Straubinge* upon the River of *Danube* multitudes of Dogs had their Rendezvous, who fought so furiously, that all the Neighbourhood were affrighted at the Prodigy; And as if they would admit of no Agreement, but such as pleased themselves, when the Governour of *Ratisbone* had sent out against them four Companies of his Foot Souldiers, with Muskets, and other Arms to assault and slay them, they left their hostility among themselves. and joyned together against the Common Enemy, falling upon the Souldiers, and in despite of their shot and weapons, killed and devoured nine of them. This year 1635. A great Inundation of Water happened at *Rome*, and after that, a mortal sickness; Five Moons were seen at once in *Normandy*, and in
Italy

Italy many Monsters were brought forth ; At this time there began Divisions in *Scotland* about Religion ; The *Hollanders* and *Spaniards* fight at Sea ; There was a great Plague at *Venice*, the *Spaniards* beat the *French*. *J. Gadbury* of Prodigies.

LIII: The next year strange Prodigies terrified the hearts of the People ; For while the Princes and Peers were in their jollity at the Diet at *Ratisbone*, War, with its grim Attendants, Famine, Pestilence, Fire and Destruction raged abroad in the *Roman Empire* ; In 1536: December 19. the Spire of *Shotten Steeple* at *Vienna* being newly built, fell suddenly down, and demolished the new built Church ; This happened about the time of the Coronation of the new King of the *Romans* at *Ratisbone* ; And about the same time, a great Blazing Star appeared at *Rome* for some time, and then vanished away suddenly over *St. Paul's Church* in that City, with a great noise, and divers Monuments placed in that Church fell down, and were utterly defaced ; Now though it might seem overmuch boldness (saith my Author) to peep into the Ark of Divine Secrets, nor can we conclude any particular consequences from the Accidental fall of this Steeple ; yet doubtless the Comet, though caused by the meeting of secondary and natural Causes did very much presage what happened about that time, and soon after ; For within one Month, the Emperor *Ferdinand 2.* who had been ill at *Ratisbone*, and then removed to *Vienna*, gave up the Ghost ; some Prodigies likewise happening in other places of the Empire, before the meeting of the Electoral Princes at *Ratisbone*, did much dishearten the common people, and caused them to despair of any good success by that Treaty ; One was, that at *Wells* in *Austria* the Emperors house of Pleasure where he then lodged, was suddenly uncovered by a violent Tempest ; and this was accompanied by two others at *Lintz*, the first was the sudden fall of an Arch of the Bridge made over the River *Danubius*, which the Emperor had no sooner

126 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

passed over, but it tumbled into the River ; The second was, that three carved Eagles placed upon the House of a Burgess of *Lintz*, being broken down by the fury of this Tempest, were again raised up into the Air by the same violent blast, and shattered three several ways, and one of them at last fell upon the House appointed for the Assembly of the Province, an other upon the Statehouse, and the third upon a publick Conduit or Aqueduct. This happened in 1636. and gave occasion to the distracted minds of men to project terrible things from that meeting of the States.

LIV. And this indeed was a bloody time in the Dukedom of *Saxony*, and there was a general fear that the fury of the War would not be confined to that Countrey, which was the more heightened by a strange Prodigy, which (though it admits of no particular Interpretation) was as terrible as portentous ; In the year 1637, the Conduit at *Hensch* situate in the midst of the Market-place, instead of Water, suddenly poured out Blood, and so continued for two hours, before the Water returned again ; About which time many bloody skirmishes happened between the *Imperial* and *Swedish* Forces few days passing without much bloodshed ; and the condition of the Dukedom of *Saxony* was exceeding deplorable, caused not only by the *Swedes* their Enemies, but also by their seeming Friends the *Imperialists*, who usually burnt those Places to the Ground, where they did not find as much provision for their Souldiers as they demanded ; So that the Boors and poor Countrey-men did now long for Peace, which they were then so much strangers to, desiring that their Swords might be turned into Plowshares, and their Pikes into Shepherds Crooks ; the Merchant longed for an open Trade, and Persons of all Conditions desired an end to these Troubles and Distractions, but it seems the miseries of that Countrey were not yet come to the height : In the same year 1637, the Water at *Weimar* was again turned to blood ;
A strange

A strange Worm in the Shape of a Man, with perfect Lineaments, and a Golden Crown on his head, was found in a Sallad at an Herb-womans shop in *Collen*, which (if not Prodigious) was yet very dreadful. A Woman appeared in a mourning habit in the Church-yard of *St. Stephens*, the Cathedral Church of *Vienna*, *June 18. 1637.* who with a doleful voice from eleven to twelve a Clock at night velled out these terrible Words; *Woe unto you; Wo unto you;* Often repeating them, and no other; The Bells without any help of men, suddenly rung out to the great affrightment of the people who deicanted upon these sad *Omens*, doubting that such horrid Consequences would ensue as presented themselves to their several Fancies; And indeed not without cause, for after this, a new time of trouble began, the sword raging in the most and best part of *Germany*; and Fire likewise, not only by chance, but by the Will and Choice of such as used that devouring Element to the dammage of their Enemies, and the General Ruin of their Countrey.

LV. Thus have I (with my Author) run over the Prodigious Signs and Warnings of *Germany*, with a brief Account of the miserable Events which ensued; But having met with a larger Relation of the dreadful Consequences of these amazing Prodigies as they were published by *Dr. Vincent* a Learned *Englib* Physician, who was an Eye-witness thereof; during the Woful Calamities of that Countrey, I do not think it amiss, nor any unprofitable digression to relate them in his own Words; It is generally concluded and believed that the Burning Beacon, or Blazing Star in 1618 was a sad fore-runner of the merciless fury of War which hath reigned, and played the Tyrant in *Germany* ever since, the best Astrologers expounding it to be *The Sword of Germany*; I have seen a Prophecy long since in a Book belonging to a Canon of *Nimwegen*, and now in the Library at *Zutphen*, That a time should come when one Frederick should be King, and then should the Princes of *Germany*, the Nobility of *Bohemia*,

Bohemia, and the People of both be very much oppressed, and War should rage beyond the Precedent of former Ages. This if ever is now fulfilled in our days, and it in such disorder it be possible, I will keep this Order in speaking thereof. 1. Of the *Exactions* and *Extortions* that have been committed. 2. The *Tortures* and *Torments* which have been exercised. 3. The *Rapes* and *Ravishments* perpetrated. 4. The *Robberies* and *Pillaging*. 5. The *Bloodshed* and *Murders*. 6. The *Burnings* and *Destructions* committed by the Popish Armies in those Countreys : These shall be the Scenes of this first Act ; *Famine* and *Pestilence* shall stand for the other Acts of this direful Tragedy ; In which as no Action or Passion was simple or single, so I cannot rehearse them without sometime intermixing one with the other.

LVI. And first for *Extortions* and *Exactions* ; As no Province or part of Germany can boast of her Freedom from these miseries, though some have been more oppressed than others ; So there is no Prince nor State which hath not suffered therein ; nay no City, no Town, nor almost no Person whatsoever ; Every weeks Relation tells us of Hundreds, Thousands, Millions of Rix-dollars or Gilders, imposed, exacted, and extorted by the Conquerors or Spoylers, for the redemption of mens Lives or Liberties, Goods or Houses ; strange and almost impossible to be paid have been the Ransomes taxed upon the Burgers at the taking of some Towns ; to which end they have threatned, imprisoned, and abused the Magistrates till they condescended : At *Cryphenberg* they kept the Senators shut up in the Common Hall, vexing and tormenting them so long with Hunger and Smoak, that some of them dyed. In *Heideburg* Castle many Burgers, and Reverend Ministers were imprisoned, and fed with Bread and Water till the Charity of the Reformed Churches could relieve them ; After those at *Frankendale* had upon necessity surrendered that Town, they could not enjoy the Articles granted them
by

by the Enemy, but the grave Councillors and other Magistrates were forced to accept of such Conditions as were fitter for Slaves and Dogs than men; some were thrown into Prison, and so severely used, that many of them dyed through grief and sorrow; others though much impoverished, were forced to redeem themselves with unreasonable Ransoms; The Goods of those which fled were confiscated; and though the Inhabitants would willingly have left their Houses and rich Furniture as plunder to those bloody Villains, yet they were detained in the City, and their destruction was most cruelly plotted and designed; After the same manner they dealt with many others, as well contrary to all Oaths and Promises as to the Laws and Common Faith of all Nations.

LVII. But not to insist on these, let us in the second place consider the *Tortures* and *Torments* which the Licentious Souldiers exercised upon the Person of the Inhabitants, without the least respect to Age, Quality, or Sex, which discovered them to be rather *Turks* and *Infidels* than Men of Arms; For even Princes, whose Persons are sacred, though they never bore Arms, as the old Lantgrave of *Hesse* and others; yea, some of the Female Sex, as the old Dutchess Dowager of *Wittenburg*, have without any regard or pity been imprisoned, reviled and abused by these Miscreants: Some of *Tillies* Souldiers caused the D. of *Saxony*s Subjects to be tortured by half strangling them, and pressing their Thumbs with wheels, they forced others to eat their own Excrements, which if they refused, they thrust down their Throats, thereby choaking some of them, and those they suspected to have money, were exquisitely tortured to make them confess; yea, Princely Personages have suffered the like cruelty with meaner men. They tyed strong Matches or Cords about the heads of some, which were twisted, till the blood came out of their Eyes, Ears and Noses, yea, till their Eyes started out of their heads; Others had burning Matches tyed betwixt their Fingers, to
their

130 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

their Noses, Tongues, Jaws, Cheeks, Breasts, Legs, and Secrets, even those parts which Nature hideth, they either filled with Powder, or tyed bags of Powder to them, and so giving fire to them, in an horrible manner burst their bellies, and killed them; They pierced, and rased the skin and flesh of some, as Artificers deal with Leather; and have drawn Cords through their Thighs, Legs, Arms, Noses, Ears and Lips; Others they hung up in the smoak, drying them with small Fires, and for fear they should dye too soon, they sometime refreshed them with small drink or cold water; Some they burned or smothered in hot Ovens, and roasted others with straw Fires, so that it was a great favour to be hanged or strangled; they bound the hands and fee of some so hard, that the Blood sprouted out at the end of their Fingers and Toes, and tyed the hands and feet of others backward together, stopping their Mouths with Clouts to hinder them from Praying: Some were hanged up with Ropes tyed to their Privy parts, and hearing their roaring, they have endeavoured to out-roar and drown their cries as in sport; yea, which is yet more detestable, when they found any poor Creatures troubled with Ruptures, or burstness, they have enlarged them, and then filling those parts with Gunpowder, have villanously blown them up as with a Mine: Many they trussed up on high, hanging Stones and Weights on their Feet to stretch out their bodies; They have planed the Faces of others with Chisels and other Instruments, pretending to make it even; some men they have openly gelded in the presence of their Wives and Children: The Mouths of some they opened with Gags, and then poured stinking water, piss, or other nasty Liquors down their Throats, saying it was a *Swedish* draught: whereby growing sick, and their Bellies swelling like a Tun, they have dyed by leaseure with the greater Torment; They thrust a knotted clout down the Throats of others, and plucked it up again with a string, thereby even moving the

the very Bowels out of their places, by which cruel Torments they made some Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, others Lame, and miserable Cripples, if they did not kill them outright. If a Husband intreated for his Wife, or a Woman for her Husband, they then tortured the Petitioner before the others Eyes, and which seems almost incredible, when these poor Creatures were dying under their merciless hands, and cryed to God in their pain and anguish, these hellish Executioners would command and force them to call upon, and pray to the Devil; Infinite almost and unspeakable indeed were the Cruelties exercised by the outrageous Souldiers on all sides; nay some were so damnably wicked as to make it their study to invent new Tortures; they took an ancient Reverend Divine, and stripping him, bound him upon a Table on his back, and fastened a great strong Cat upon his Belly, beating and pricking the Cat to make her fix her Teeth and Claws in the poor mans Belly; So that the Man and Cat partly through Famine, and partly through pain and anguish both dyed under their Tormentors; some of the cursed Croats, or Crabats endeavoured to teach their Horses to eat the flesh of Christians, and contrived worse Tortures than Phalaris, Nero, Dionysius, or any of those monstrous Tyrants of former ages ever arrived to, so that we may say, *Caucasus* bred them, *Tygers* fed them, and Hell taught them, the last of which, without deep repentance, was probably their eternal Lot.

LVIII. I have said much of the former particular, though not the Tenth part of what was acted: I will now thirdly speak a little of the ensuing Abomination; *Rapes and Ravishments* hardly to be imagined, and beyond all humane modesty did they commit, Virgins, Matrons, Widows, and Wives without distinction have they violated and forced even in the presence of their Parents, Husbands and Neighbours, yea, Women with Child, and even in Childbed; No Chappel, Church, or other place hath been free from their

their filthiest pollutions, and barbarisms ; The very Hospitals and Bedlam-houses have not been spared, their Devilish Debaucheries have there found Subjects for their Lusts. In the Land of *Hesse*, a poor lean mad woman who had been kept in chains above Twenty years, was by these Hell-hounds let loose ; to whom they brought divers others like her self, some mad, others dumb, all wretched Creatures, they tyed their Coats about their ears, and then shamefully abused them ; In *Pomerania* they ravished the handsomest Virgins of that Countrey, before their Parents faces, forcing their Friends to sing Psalms to them all the while. In *Italy* I have heard the Villanies of the *German* Troops recited with Tears ; Among others, a beautiful Maid was hid by her Parents in a Dunghil, but they discovering her, ravished her, and then barbarously cutting her in pieces, hung her quarters up in the Church, and bid her Friends pray to the Saints for her relief : In the Land of *Brunswick* two Souldiers took a Girl of ten years old, and carryed her into the Wood to ravish her. The Mother with hands held up, came running after our Coach (saith my Author) crying out to my Colonel, but he being a stranger had no command there, and could not relieve her, soon after we saw the 2 Horsemen come out of the Wood, whether they left the poor Child dead or alive I know not : Some virtuous and chaste women they have offered to kill, or thrown their Children into the Fire to make them yield : They spared not the very Nuns, but after they had broke into their Cloysters, and pillaged them of all their goods, they have likewise ravished and killed some of them ; Some Women have leaped into Rivers and Wells ; others have killed themselves, because they would not be subject to the lusts of these Hellish Furies ; nay not only sick and weak Virgins and Women have been violated till they dyed, but these wretches have committed filthiness with the dead Bodies.

LIX. But fourthly as to *Robberies and Pillaging*, they

they were so numerous, that no man could pass any where in *Germany*, but he was robbed, stript, and perhaps killed; The Merchants of *Frankford*, *Norimburg*, *Leipswick*, *Hamburg*, &c. have had too woful experience thereof; The Merchants of *Basil* returning from the Mart of *Strasburg* and other Fairs, were set upon by the *Imperialists* in their Lodgings; and though they offered to prove themselves Merchants, and so ought to pass freely, yea, though they begged their Lives upon their knees, yet they villanously murdered Ten of them, saying, *They must dye because they were Heriticks*: The rest leaving their Goods and Cloaths behind, escaped stark naked in the night by flight. Yea, the very Convoys who pretended to guard Travellers, were oft times as bad as the Enemies, watching all occasions to cheat them of their money, goods, and Horses, spoyling their Waggons when they made a stand, and risting and stripping the meanest person if he stragled in the least from the Company; Two Countesses of great Nobility, with their fair Daughters, were entertained by us (saith my Author) in the Castle of *Huidelburg*, and when provision grew scarce, they went away with the Enemies passport, notwithstanding which they were robbed and rittled in their Coaches of all they had, not leaving them the very Garments that covered them; yea they shamefully plundered the *Danish* Ambassador, though priviledged by his Office in all Nations; so that the case was strangely altered in *Germany*, where not long before a man might have rid with an hundred pound in his pocket, and only a whip in his hand through all those Countreys without the least fear of being injured; But now the very Souldiers even robbed one another if they found them in the least out of their quarters; neither did they acknowledge God nor Devil, but in their cursed Oaths and Blasphemies, nor was there any action so vile, but they were ready to commit it, and this introduces the next particular.

LX. Which is, Fifthly to relate the *Bloudhed* and *Murders* committed by them, to report the whole of which will be equally impossible, and incredible; *Alstedius* saith, that before the K. of *Sweden* came into *Germany*, the Wars had consumed an Hundred Thousand, and if so, how many Millions have miserably perished; The cruelty of the Souldiers toward the Inha'bitants of those Countreys is inexpressible, all persons having the same measure without distinction; At *Langhoo* in *Bavaria*, the Souldiers entred by force, killing not only all they found in Arms, but the very Priests kneeling at the Altars, and the poor Peasants and Countrey People were killed upon every slight occasion; There were among the *Imperialists* a base rascally sort of Horsemen called *Croats* or *Crabbats* aforementioned, the tenth part whereof were not of that Countrey, but a miscellany or mixture of all Nations, without God, or Religion, having only the outsides of men, and scarce that neither, but were bloody Monsters within; These Rakehels made no Conscience of murdering men and women, both old and young, yea, of very innocent Babes, whom like the Wild Beasts among which they were bred, these Villains inhumanely eat, when they might have had other food; By these the poor people were barbarously knocked down in the Fields, and Highways, and likewise slaughtered, stab'd and tortur'd; I have seen them (saith my Author) beat out the brains of poor, old, decrepit Women only in sport, and commit many other outrages too long to relate; yea it was so common for the poor people to see others killed, that as if there had been no Relation, Affection, Neighbourhood, or Kindred, none pitied them, or had any compassion upon them, hardly any cryed out, Oh my Father, Oh my Brother, &c. The *Croats* very seldom gave Quarter, but killed all that were at their mercy; and others received Pay, for bringing the Noses and Ears of their Enemies to their Masters: Tilly after the defeat of the D. of *Brunswick*

at *Hux* on the River *Main*, drew out of that Town Threescore Souldiers, and caused them all to be killed in cold blood before the Gate, saying, *That is sacrificed them to Count Mansfield their Master.*

LXI. Lastly, For *Burnings*, pulling down and ruining of Churches, Cities, Villages, the like hath never been heard; The *Swedish* Army burned above Two Thousand Villages in revenge of the Cruelties acted in the *Palatinate*; But their Enemies spared neither Friends nor Foes, what goodly Houses of the Nobility and Gentry were on every side defaced or burnt to Ashes; So that all men betook themselves to Arms: No tilling of the Land, no breeding of Cattel, no place secure but the Camp, no Plow to follow but the War, for he that was not an Actor with the rest, must of necessity be a miserable sufferer; If they should have sowed any thing one year, the next year the Souldiers would have devoured it, so that they judged it better to sit still than to labour, and let others reap the benefit thereof, from whence proceeded an Universal Desolation; most of the People and Inhabitants swarmed as banished men in other Countreys, as in *Switzerland*, *France*, *Italy*, and the *Venetian* Territorys. From *Basil* to *Straßburg*, and from thence to *Heidelberg*, and *Marpurg*, which was some Hundreds of miles, I scarce saw a man (saith my Author) in the Fields and Villages; Little better was it in travelling from *France* to the middle of *Bohemia*, and from the *Alpes* about *Ausburg* to the *Baltick* Sea, though a compass of ground of above Two Thousand miles, and not much less than three times all *Brittain*, the greatest part of the People being destroyed and extinguished by Wars, length of time, and all manner of miseries.

LXII. *Famine* cometh in the next place, a thing so grievous that *David* preferred the *Pestilence* in his Choice; To see men slain by the Sword, or dye of Contagious Diseases is not yet so grievous as to see them dye of *Famine*, or to kill and eat one another; when

Samaria

Samaria was besieged by *Benhadad K. of Syria*, the Famine was so great that an Asses head was sold for fourscore pieces of Silver, and the fourth part of a Cab of Doves Dung for fifty pieces of Silver; Two Women agreed to eat their own Children, and when they had boyled and eaten one, the other Woman hid hers; In the siege of *Jerusalem*, Mice, Rats, and Hides were good meat, and Women did dress and eat their own Children, the smell whereof drew others who were hunger-starved to come to share with them: But that Cities which were not besieged, and a Countrey naturally fruitful, should be so ruined, as not to be able for so long a time to afford Bread to a poor remnant of people, but that they must be forced to eat Carrion, and dead men, yea one another whilst alive, this was lamentable, and hitherto never heard of; Had not I been provided (saith my Author) with victuals at my coming out of *Switzerland*, Famine had arrested me in *Germany*, for there was not any where meat to be had for money; The *Italians* and *Spaniards* who had been at the fight at *Norlingen*, and being disarmed, wandred about, were so black and feeble for hunger, that had I not given them part of my provision, I believe they had torn me in pieces, and eaten me; Travelling from *Newstadt* toward *Frankendal* in a snowy day, I unexpectedly met with the Army of Duke *Bernard*, whose stragling Forerunners came riding up to me by couples, and when I looked for a worse errand, they asked only for a little Bread, which my Guide bestowed upon them so long as we had any; From thence to *Manheim* and *Heidelberg* many dead men lay strawed on the way, especially on the places where they had made Fires, who perished through cold and want. When we were besieged in the Castle of *Heidelberg*, our Souldiers at first killed more Horses in a day then they could eat, least they should dye of themselves for want of hay; therefore what was left they threw out of the Castle down the Rock, which the Enemy in the night drew into the Town,

Town, though some of them were slain in the Action, and so they heartily eat our Horseflesh; At which time the Serjeant Major with fifty men issued out upon three hundred of the Enemy intrenched on the East side of the Castle, many were slain; others broke their necks down the Rocks; Our Souldiers being Masters of the Trench, fell to ransack the Enemies knapsacks which they had left behind them, but found nothing in them except our own Horse-flesh, which yet was not unwelcome, for it grew scarce with us; so that now we were compelled to kill the Horses which stood fasting and sleeping on the Dunghil, not out of compassion to them, but for our own necessity; Another Serjeant Major had two very fine Horses, our Souldiers took one and eat him; but he thinking to make sure of the other, fastened him to the Wall with a strong Chain and a Padlock, but they taking their opportunity, cut off the Horses Neck, and left the head in the Chain, carrying away the body, and greedily eating it. At length Dogs and Cats came in request, so that we could smell our meat off, and yet on the Table it was still more lothsome, the taste being answerable to the smell, yet we eat it exceeding favourly, but our bread at last failing, we yielded to necessity.

For the Armies every where over-running the Countrey, devoured both Corn and Cattel, so that those who had any goods left, offered to give all for a little food; But that being not to be obtained, they were fain to lye in the streets and highwayes, (much contrary to their former way of living) to beg something for Gods sake, wherewith to refresh their dying Souls; yet no sooner had they swallowed what was given them, but they presently gave up the Ghost; Memorable is that relation which *Reinmannus* recordeth of the Famine in *Alsatia*, that *Valentine Engelin* a Citizen of *Rusack*, with the Sexton of the Church deposed before a Magistrate upon their Oaths, That *Anne* the Daughter of *John Ebstein* confessed to them, that she

138 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

She came from *Colmar*, where she had waited many days before the Hangmans door in hope to get a piece of Horselfesh to satisfie her hunger, but not prevailing, she was now come to *Rusack* intreating them, that if there were the body of any young man or woman unburied, they would give it her to eat to preserve her Life; And that two other women and a boy made the same request; affirming that they had lived a long time upon dead mens flesh; After which the Churchyard of *St. Nicholas* where the dead bodies lay, was shut up; Lastly they declared that four young maids had cut in pieces the dead body of another maiden of eleven years old, and had eaten every one their part of her; Many who survived the loss of all they had, sustained themselves for a long time with Roots, Acorns, green Fruits, grafs, Thistles, and other Weeds, which the very beasts would not have eaten, upon which several of them grew distracted and died; In some places the poor famished people were so faint, that they had not strength to bury one another, so that the dead bodies have been devoured by Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves; Yea some Persons have run mad for meer hunger; In some Cities the Inhabitants have by this Famine been constrained to kill and sell all manner of Vermine in publick shops, as Dogs, Cats, Mice, Rats, &c. A woman at *Hanover* who used commonly to sell Dogs flesh to the Souldiers; was in the street assaulted by Dogs, and had all her cloths torn off her body, so that she was forced to sit down on the ground to hide her shame, and had she not been timely rescued, she had been torn in pieces by the Dogs. If any had a Beast left which he carefully kept for his necessity, some or other of his Acquaintance would, if possible, steal it from him and eat it; They snatched from each other with great eagerness, the very stinking Carrion which had lain 5 or 6 weeks dead, and full of Maggots, yea, they fought and beat one another to get a morsel thereof, as it happened at a place called *Dubach*; It moved

moved the Grandees and Governours to compassion to see their People in such extream want ; Insomuch that the Noble Earl of *Falkenstein* seeing his Subjects crave sustenance of him, commanded his Servants to give them his Hounds to satisfie their hunger, whom they presently killed, and eat with all greediness.

And as the *Famine* increased, when no more food was to be got, men were like enraged Beasts one against another, and gathering together by Troops, watched one another upon the High-ways, and so murdered, drest, and eat each other, so that none could pass safely on the way, or in the streets without a guard, or very well armed, and though some have been taken and severely punished by Justice, yet others continued lurking to seize upon Passengers ; Three Maidens at *Odenheim* near *Worms* agreed to live together and take their chance, but as the Proverb saith, *Necessity hath no Law, and hunger is a sharp Thorn*, for in a while they were all so extreamly pinched with *Famine*, that they sought to take away one anothers lives to save their own, Two of them conspired to kill the third by strangling her in bed, or some other way, and after to drest and eat her up. All which they did accordingly ; Then the second resolved to strangle her Companion, and cut off her head, which when she had done, and devoured her flesh, her heart was so hardened, that she went to a Village called *Ridishheim* to a Woman of her Acquaintance called *Margaret*, whose Husband was absent for fear of the Souldiers ; the woman entertained her kindly, rejoycing that she came to see her ; But in the night lying by the woman, she barbarously cut off her head, and binding the dead body upon a board, brought it to her house at *Piedessen*, but being pricked with the sharpness of hunger, she had not patience to cut the body in pieces, but only cut off the head and both the hands, which she washed and dressed : The Husband coming home missed his wife, and inquiring of the Neighbours, they told him such a maid was seen with her ; upon which he went immediately

mediately to her house, and knocking at the door, asked her if she had not seen his Wife, she answered him, no; But such deeds of cruelty are hard to be concealed, *Murder will out*, as they say; The man goes into her house, and casting his eyes round, looks into every corner, at length he spies an hand to stick out of the Pot which hung over the Fire; Hereupon being overcome with grief, he rageth against the Murderers, and threatens her so severely, that she presently confesseth the whole truth to him; thereupon he complains to a Justice, the woman is seized and brought before the Lords of Justice sitting in the Judgment Seat; They deliberate a great while about her punishment, some were of opinion that what she had acted was not as a Rational Creature, but as a Brute. since the desire of Food is common to us with Beasts. But others alledged such horrid wickedness ought severely to be punished for a Terror to others; Upon which she was led to the common place of Justice, her head was cut off, and her body being bound to a wheel, was left as a spectacle to all Passengers of the horror of the Fact.

That which follows (saith my Author) I cannot write without Tears, no man ever hated his own flesh, saith the Scripture, and such are the Children of our Bodies, so that it is even against nature to destroy such fruit; Yet the dreadful sharpness of hunger hath brought this to pass; Oh what is that miserable necessity which makes us even break stone Walls, which causeth us to forget our nearest and dearest Relations, that vanquishes our most natural, and most powerful Passions, and tempts us to destroy that which we before so dearly loved, and so carefully cherished: At Oterburg in the Palatinate, a Widow woman living near the Church-yard, her name well known, had a Daughter of about nine or ten years old; This child was grown so faint with hunger, that one time with sorrowful eyes looking upon her Mother, she said, *Sweet Mother, I would willingly dye so I were rid of my*

pain,

or,
ed
be
an
oks
ick
on
the
she
re-
eed
the
out
she
s a
with
ness
ers;
Ju-
ing
Paf-

not
own
ren
de-
ger
able
alls,
rest
nost
nich
ed:
ring
d a
hild
with
aid,
f my
pain,



*The Terrible Prodigies during the Wars
and Desolations in Germany Page .125*

pain, *Oh that you would make an end of me, then should I go from whence I came, or if I should kill you, then you would be rid of your pain*; The Mother looking earnestly upon her again, with a woful sigh replied, *And what wouldst thou do with me Child*; The Girl very mournfully replied *I would then eat you, for they say that mans flesh is very sweet*; The Mother at these words fell a weeping, and being wonderfully distracted in her own thoughts, like a Ship tossed between the two Rocks of *Desperate Necessity*, and *Motherly Affection*; at length the first of them prevailed, and suddenly catching the Child by the head, and untying her hairlace, twisteth it about the neck of this innocent Lamb, and so presently strangled her, being dead, and she having no knife to cut the Body in pieces, she took a Spade, and therewith hewed it into Gobbets, and so dressing the head, and part of the Body, eat it up; Some part thereof she sold to her Neighbors for about six pence a pound; Her Child being long missed, her acquaintance asked her where it was, and how she came by that Flesh, she replied, *It was Hogs flesh which she had got of the Soldiers who passed that way*; But perceiving the truth would be discovered, she freely confessed all; whereupon she was taken and Imprisoned, being allowed half a pound of bread, and a Kann of Water a day till her sentence; Being after examined before the Lords, she told them, *That she was happy, since she came to Prison, and would be glad to lye there all her life, for now she had wherewith to abate her hunger and thirst, her dreadful pain was thereby much abated*; This so moved the Judges to compassion, that they freed her from Prison, and let her go as Innocent, as being compelled thereto by woful Necessity; I cannot but record another story of the like nature; A Woman of *Hornbach* having been newly brought to bed, and wanting milk to nourish her Babe, she kissed and imbraced it a thousand times, drowning it almost with her Tears, and after a long Conflict with her own disturbed Soul, she killed it with

a knife, and afterward dressed and eat it; When it began to be known, she was examined before the Judges, who asked her *Why she killed her Child*, she answered, *That mighty and intolerable hunger had forced her to do it, and that it was the fruit of her own body, which she thought she might better make use of, than of any other*; However she was condemned to dye, and accordingly executed for a terror to others.

I am even weary (saith he) of these lamentable Relations, yet more miserable Accidents, if more miserable can be, followed these; They traced and followed the dead bodies to their place of Burial, and then digging them out of their Graves, dressed and eat them; so that in divers places, at *Worms* especially, they were forced to set watch at the Church-yards, and over the Graves to keep the dead from being stolen and eaten; Yea to that extremity were they brought that some constrained by hunger, took Poyson to dispatch themselves, nay the very Wild Beasts in Woods were starved for want of Prey; The Earl of *Arundel* travelling to *Frankford* in his way toward *England*, a Boor or Peasant of the Countrey being their Guide, and having his Legs bare, a Fox pursued him even amidst the Earls Servants, and would not forbear biting of his Legs and heels for extream hunger, till they gave him a blow on the neck, and so took him alive; The eyes of the Fox were sunk in his head, his bones stuck out, and he was so extream lean, that his ribs almost clung together; they carried him alive with them in the Coach, and after a few days he dyed; Another *English* Gentleman who came about that time through *Germany* into *England*, by the by-ways thereby to escape the Souldiers, reported that Wolves, Foxes, and other Wild Beasts lay dead for want of Food, and that in some Places men lived only upon Robbery, and the spoil of Strangers, or of one another, so that Thievery was the only Trade then practiced among them.

LXIII. Thus much of this tremendous Judgment
of

of *Famine*, In the last place let *Pestilence*, *Sickness* and *Diseases* bring up the Bere of this lamentable Scene of sorrow. These Distempers are oft-times the Companions or Effects of War, it is very rare for a great Army to stay long in a place, and not to leave some Infection behind them; Beyond the River *Dona*, after the *Swedes* departure from thence with their Forces, the Plague, and several unheard of Diseases swept away a multitude of people, the like happened in the *Palatinate* and *Bohemia*; After *Mastricht* was taken, the Town and Countrey were grievously afflicted with Feavers, Fluxes, and the Pestilence above all, and the same year the Armies of the Duke of *Lorraine*, and the *Rhinegrave* dyed miserably in the like kind in *Alsatia*; The Army of the Prince of *Orange* having taken *Rhineberg* left such infection in *Brabant*, that the Inhabitants the year after were afraid to live in their own Houses; About the same time General *Holck* being sent with six thousand men to invade *Saxony*, he plundered the City of *Leipswick*, and committed as great outrages as *Tillies* Army had done before, but such a Plague overtook both him and his Army, that most of his Souldiers dyed like rotten sheep, and being infected himself, he offered six hundred Rix dollars for a *Protestant* Minister to instruct and comfort him, But both he and his Souldiers had so behaved themselves, that no Minister was to be found: In the mean time all his Friends and Servants forsook him, except his Concubine, who stayed with him to the last; He had been both *Protestant* and *Papist*, but revolted from both, so that being guilty of his own perfidiousness, and the execrable Murders and Rapines he had occasioned, he dyed utterly despairing of future happiness; In the City of *Basil* above Twenty Thousand dyed of the Plague; Their *Papish* Neighbours of the City of *Trent* rejoiced at their sufferings, as being their Enemies in Religion, but their Joy was very short, for the Winter following the Pestilence raged dreadfully among

244 *The surprizing Miracles of Nature*

them, and though that City was not great, yet above Three Thousand Persons were buried out of it ; This Plague was extraordinary virulent, and altogether incurable ; Some dyed raging, others were killed with their Carbuncles, others were swoln and discoloured as if they had taken poyson, and some dyed most strangely spotted ; If any Souldier were but slightly wounded, it presently turned to a malignant Ulcer, defying all means of Cure ; when the Infection got into a Kindred, it destroyed Parents, Children, and most times all of the blood ; which demonstrates that a divine hand was very conspicuous in this woful visitation, though the Food and Air might also much conduce to impoyson the Bodies ; In the Siege of *Hannover* above twenty two thousand People were buried of the Sickness, and had not it pleased God hereby to diminish their numbers, they had yielded the Town for want of Viduals ; In the same Seige Souldiers who went seemingly well, and with their Eye-sight upon the Guard, came off again in a few hours struck stark blind, even Thirty at a time were thus afflicted, but the Disease afterward falling into their Legs, most of them recovered.

About this time almost all *Germany* felt this punishment in a grievous manner ; In *Swaben*, *Tyrol*, and all along the Rivers of *Rhine* and *Main*, the Plague raged furiously ; The King of *Hungary* was fain to dissolve his Court, and send his Servants away to other Cities for their security ; The Inhabitants of *Memingen*, *Camden*, and *Isnen* in *Swaben* were utterly consumed, and none left alive ; In the Countrey thereabout formerly inhabited by above Thirty Thousand men, there were not Four hundred Souls to be found ; In the Confines of *Bavaria* the living were not sufficient to bury the dead, but Rats and Mice devoured their Carcases to the great horror of Passengers ; *Holland* and the *Low Countreys* smarted very sore likewise ; The University of *Leyden* buried Thirty Thousand ; The Countrey Villages and the *Hague* were miserably

bly afflicted, and also *Brussels* and *Antwerp*; The Cities of *Nimegen*, *Emerich*, *Rees*, *Guelthers* with other places neer, were not only visited therewith, (whereof the Marquess of *Avara* the *Spanish* General, and other Commanders dyed) but there happened new contagious Diseases, among others, strange Fluxes, and a Pox hitherto unknown; The Emperors Army foraging and dispersing themselves all over the Countrey scattered the Contagion from their Quarters at *Hailburn* to the Land of *Wirtenburg*, and many places became hereby utterly depopulated; But after *Gallas* his taking in the Towns upon the *Rhine*, such an Infection happened through the stink of the dead unburied bodies, that in the Bishoprick of *Mentz* alone there dyed of this and Famine Twenty Four Thousand People; In *Saxony*, *Brandenburg*, *Pomerania*, *Mecklenburg*, &c. the Pestilence and other Diseases, were so Universal, that these and the Sword seemed to contend which should be the greatest destroyers; It consumed in *Saxony* no less than Sixteen Thousand Souls in two Months time; Thus as by the print of the foot of *Hercules* you may guess at his stature, so by these few particulars of the miseries of some places, we may judge of the lamentable Condition of the whole Countrey, where these dreadful Judgments have left such wounds, as perhaps posterity for some Generations will see the scars of; And so I have done with this particular Relation of the Prodigies and Miseries of *Germany* for several years, and shall now proceed more generally according to my former method.

LIV. In the year 1638. Six Suns were seen at once in *Cornwall*, and several Apparitions of men in the Heavens preparing to fight with each other; Also Navys of Ships were visible in the Sky; The *Scots* at this time make an Insurrection, the King goes in Person to appease them, they renounce the Bishops and Prelacy, and set up Presbytery in *Scotland*; In this year 1638. happened a terrible Earthquake in the

Island of St. Michael one of the *Azores*, or *Tercera's* belonging to the Spaniards in the *Atlantick* Ocean Westward; Upon *June 26.* this Island began universally to quake and tremble, which continued eight days, so that the People leaving the Cities, Towns and Castles, were forced to live in the open Fields: After which this Prodigy succeeded; Six miles distant from the Hill or Peak of *Camara*, at a place called *Ferrera*, where Fishermen with their Boats use to fish in Summer, they at this time caught such a multitude, that no Boat returned with less than Ten Thousand Fish; At this very place in *July* this year, Fire broke forth with such unexpressable violence, notwithstanding the depth of the Ocean, which has been fathomed one hundred and twenty foot deep, that the very Sea it self was not sufficient to extinguish such mighty flames; The space of this boyling Fire was about two Acres, and the Fire arose with such mighty force, that it reached even to the clouds, carrying with it Water, Sand, Earth, Stones, and much other matter, which like Feather-beds flew into the Air to the terror of the Beholders afar off, and falling down again into the water, resembled a kind of *Pulsis* or *Frumentie*; and had not the Wind by divine Providence blown off from the Isle into the Sea, and thereby driven back this outrageous Fire, without doubt the whole Countrey had been utterly burnt up and destroyed by this formidable Combustion; soon after it cast forth stones of so vast a bigness, to the height of above three lances, that they seemed rather like entire Mountains than Stones, which in their fall meeting and dashing against others they broke into a Thousand pieces, with a terrible noise and Ratling, which afterward being taken up mouldred into a black Sand. Moreover out of this vast quantity of matter thrown out, a new Island arose even in the midst of the deep Ocean; In the beginning it was not above five Acres, but increasing continually in four days after, it took up the length of five
five

five mile; so vast a multitude of fish perished by this burning, that eight Ships of *India* could hardly contain them, and being dispersed about all parts of the Island were gathered together, and buried in deep Ditches by the Inhabitants for eighteen miles round about to prevent any Contagion which might arise from them, but the *Sulphur* or *Brimstone* was smelt twenty four miles. This year the *Hollanders* beat the *Spanish* Fleet upon the Coast of *England*.

LXV. The same year, 1633. the Learned *Kircherus* made a search and discovery into the burning Mountain of *Vesuvius* in the Kingdom of *Naples*, so famous for fiery Irruptions for many Ages, which being one of the most tremendous *Miracles of Nature* I shall relate in his own words; After so great Dangers sustained by Sea and Land in diligently searching out the incredible power of nature working in Burroughs and Passages under ground, I had a great desire to inform my self concerning *Vesuvius*, I went therefore to *Porticus* (the Porch or Entrance) a Town situate at the Foot of the Mountain, where hiring an honest Countreyman for a true and skilful Companion, and guide in the way, not without a considerable reward, I ascended the Mountain at midnight through, difficult, rough, uneven, and steep Passages; when I came to the top or mouth I saw what is horrible to be expressed; I saw it all over of a light Fire with a dreadful combustion, and stench of *Sulphur* and burning *Bitumen*; whereat being astonished, methoughts I beheld the habitation of Hell, wherein nothing seemed to be wanting but the Apparitions of Ghosts, Devils, and damned Spirits; I then observed horrible bellowings and roarings in the mountain, and unexpressible stink, smoaks mixt with darkish Globes of Fire, which both the bottom and sides of the Mountain continually belched forth from eleven several places, and made me belch, and ready to vomit; O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are thy ways! If thou shewest thy power against the wickedness of man-

148 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

kind in such formidable and portentous Prodigies and Omens of nature? What shall it be in that last day wherein the Earth shall be destroyed by thy wrath, and the Elements shall melt with fervent heat? In the morning as soon as it was light, that I might with the more diligence, search into the Bowels of the Mountain, I chose a place to set my feet secure upon, which was an huge Rock, plain on the top, where taking forth my *Pantometer* (or *Universal Measure*) I took the dimensions of the Mountain, and found by Geometrical Computation, the compass of the Mouth to be almost three hundred paces, but the depth thereof eight hundred paces; The Mountain was every where up and down cragged, and broken, yet no gradual declining, for any passage to the inward parts, but descended in its compass of an equal bigness like a Well, and although the bottom seemed narrower, yet I judged it only to proceed from the exceeding great depth and distance from our sight; In the very middle of the bottom, Nature seemed to have made a Shop or Workhouse of Fire, with everlasting gushings forth and streamings of sinoak and flames, which seem to be employed for boyling of *Sulphur*, *Bitumen*, and other Minerals in preparation for deadly ruins and slaughters afterward to be committed, since the vapours contained therein not having room, endeavour to free themselves with such great force and violence, accompanied with horrible cracklings and noise, that the Mountain seems to be tost with an Earthquake or trembling, upon which the higher and softer parts of the Mountain that are clung together of Ashes, Cinders, Rains, and other Refuses of Minerals being shook in pieces, and loosed by this quaking, and so falling like Hills into the bottom of this Hellish Gulph, cause such terrible noises as are often heard, which are so great and fearful as may daunt the most stout and courageous Spirit; The matter which was continually belched forth from the center or bottom of the Mountain made as it were a new Mountain, which had won-

wonderful variety of Furrows or hollow Channels, with various kinds of melted Minerals, formed as it were by the ingenious Pencil of Nature, sometimes of a greenish colour from *Brass*; then yellow from *Sulphur*, *Arsnick*, and *Sandarack*; presently after Red from *Cinabar*, *Red-Lead* and *Vermilion*; afterward Black from *Vitriol* mixt with water, or of an *Aby* colour from the very Cinders. Thus far the laborious *Kircher*.

LXVI. Hear now what our ingenious Countryman Mr. G. Sandys relates of this fiery Mountain *Vesuvius*, It is scituate in *Campania Felix*, about eight miles from *Naples*, which City hath received great injuries and prejudices by its Cinders, and violent throwing out of stones even to its Walls and Houses; This Mountain has vast Fountains of Fire, and was heretofore high on every side before the inward parts were consumed; it usually utters smoak by day, but by night, Flames; its manner is to send forth a loud sounding or roaring noise and bellowing first, and then to belch forth a huge quantity of Cinders to the great danger of those who pass by, but if a vehement wind blow upon it, the Ashes or Cinders are raised so high and driven so far in length, that 'tis certain they have sometimes been carried as far as *Constantinople* though many hundred miles distance, and so affrighted them that they have all ran to their Prayers to implore the averting of Divine Wrath; The Mountain hath a double top, that toward the North ends in a Plain, the other toward the South aspires higher, which when covered with Clouds, prognosticates rain to the *Neopolitans*, In the top there is a large deep hollow in form of an *Amphitheater*, in the midst is a Pit which leads into the Entrails of the Earth, the matter thrown up is ruddy, light and soft, the uttermost brow of the Hill flourishes with Trees, and excellent Pasturage, the midst is shaded with Chesnut Trees and others, bearing divers fruits; The lower parts are admirably clothed with Vines

which afford the best *Greek* Wines in the World; It hath at divers times made dreadful Eruptions and Devastations which (as well as Mount *Ætna* of which hereafter) have been accounted ominous, and to portend some woful Calamities to ensue.

But never any thing appeared so horrible (saith my Author) as what happened in the Reign of the Emperor *Titus* eighty years after Christ, For then it disgorged such boyling Waves and Flouds of Fire as consumed the Neighbouring Cities; And then it was that *Pliny the Second*, that great searcher into Nature, and the famous Author of the Natural History, and then Admiral of the *Roman* Navy, being desirous to discover the reason thereof, was choaked and suffocated in approaching too near to discover so great a mystery of Nature, yet not wilfully I suppose, though some Authors assert that he threw himself into it, because he could not understand the natural cause of this mighty Conflagration; At that time there issued forth so great a smoke that the very Sun seemed to be in an Eclipse, and likewise huge Stones, and such plenty of Ashes, that *Rome*, *Africk* and *Switz* were even covered with them, and besides, Beasts, Fish, and Fowl which were destroyed, it overwhelmed *Herculanum* and *Pompeii* two adjoining Cities with Pumice Stones, together with all the People sitting in the Theater; There were also heard dismal noises all about the Province, and Giants of incredible bigness were seen to stalk up and down the top and edges of the Mountains (if the Peoples fancies were not imposed upon by their astonishment) which extraordinary Accident was judged either a cause, or Presage of a terrible Pestilence, which reigned in *Rome* and *Italy* long after; *Morrellinus* the *Roman* Historian relates, That the Ashes of *Vesuvius* transported in the Air, obscured and darkened all *Europe*, and that the Inhabitants of *Constantinople* were wonderfully affrighted therewith, insomuch that their Emperor *Leo* forsook the City, and therein memorial of the same they celebrated.

ted yearly the 12 of *November*; It likewise burnt in the 6 year of *Constantine* the Fourth, and groaned, but ejected no Cinders; *Platina* writes, that it flamed in 685, prognosticating the Death of Pope *Benedict* 2. with the ensuing Slaughters, Rapines, and Deaths of Princes; During the Papacy of *Benedict* 8, and 9. it is said to have done the like, and though it hath made divers dreadful devastations, yet the fruitful Ashes thrown about did seem to repair the foregoing losses with a quick and marvellous fruitfulness; At the foot of the Hill there are divers holes and vents, out of which exceeding cold winds do continually issue, and which at *Padua* they let into their Rooms at pleasure, to qualifie the heat of Summer; In the year 1610 in *February*, *Vesuvius* began to flame, to the great affrightment of the *Napopolitans*, and solemn Prayers and Supplications being ordered, they went in Procession with the head of *Janninus* their Patron, and the defender of their City carryed before them; whereby the deluded people were perswaded that the destruction which hung over their heads was prevented, In 1631 was a new Eruption, and again in 1635 was an Earthquake in *Messina*.

LXVII. In the year 1638 likewise the industrious *Kircher* made a discovery of the *Phlegrean*, or Fiery Plains in the Fields of *Puteoli* near *Naples*, which being another wonderful Prodigy of Nature, may be worth relating; Passing by *Naples* (saith he) I could not let slip the opportunity of inquiring and looking into those Sulphurous Plains so much celebrated in all Ages; Having therefore gone through a Passage underground, called the *Grotte*, arched and made hollow, to the Mountain *Pausilippus*; not far from *Puteoli*, between the Jaws of the Mountains, a large Plain presents it self to view, altogether dreadful and full of horror, in length about Twelve hundred Foot, in breadth a Thousand; The whole Plain is surrounded with Hills of high and steep Rocks, which were formerly very lofty, but are since devoured by perpetu-

al Fires; In the bottom little hills are seen to burn and flame, with a strong smell of Brimstone which is carryed by the Winds through all the Neighbouring Regions, even as far as *Naples*, some parts of the Plain have an infinite number of holes, and are yellow with a Sulphurish matter; the ground when it is touched by those who walk thereon, sounds and rattles like a Drum by reason of the hollownes thereof, and you may feel as it were, not without astonishment, boyling waters under your feet, and thick fiery fumes to hiss and flow from one place to another with a great crackling noise through the Pipes and Passages under ground which are made by these fiery Exhalations; the force of this is very great as you may experience by stopping any of these holes with an heavy stone, or the like; for then you shall observe the violence of the smoak presently to throw it up, and belch it forth again; But an huge Laky Ditch in the same plain did wonderfully affect me; It is full of boyling waters, very frightful for their blackness, that one would imagine it were a Kettle, or Caldron boyling with Pitch and Rosin; It is likewise admirable, that the swallowing Gulph casts forth these boyling waters eight or ten foot above a mans height, in the fashion of a spire Steeple, or Pyramid; In the Mountains and Rocks wherewith this *Vulcanian* Plain is compassed, there are Passages like Chimneys, some whereof breath out a continual Wind, with a terrible sound and rattling and also with such strength, that if you cast a stone therinto, it is struck back again to your hand with great fury; some of these breathing holes dart forth smoak mixt with flames; you would here think your self almost in the midst of Hell, where all things appear horrid, sad, and lamentable, and you are even struck breathless with the stench of *Sulphur*, *Bitumen*, *Napthe*, and other Earths, Clays, Marls and Minerals;

We must not here omit Mr. *Sandys* his Relation of a most memorable Earthquake, and burning which hap-

happened near the City *Puteoli* in 1538. with the new formed Mountain; For the famous Lake *Lucrinus* hardby, extended formerly to the deadly Sulphurous Lake *Avernus*, supposed the entrance into Hell by ignorant Antiquity, where they offered Infernal Sacrifices to *Pluto* their God of Hell, and to the *Manes* or *Ghosts* of their deceased Friends, who were there said to have returned answers to what was demanded of them: This place is now only a little watry plash, choaked up by the horrible and astonishing eruption of a new Mountain, whereof as often as I think, I am apt to give credit to whatsoever is wonderful; For who is there in this place but knows, or who elsewhere will believe, that a Mountain should arise partly out of a Lake, and partly out of the Sea, in one day and a night to such a height, as to contend in altitude with the highest Mountains adjoyning, yet so it was; For *Sept. 29. 1538.* the Countrey hereabout having for several days before been tormented with perpetual Earthquakes, that no one house was left intire, but all men expected an immediate ruin; After the Sea had retired two hundred Paces from the Shoar, leaving abundance of Fish and Springs of fresh water rising in the bottom, this Mountain visibly ascended about the second hour of the night, with an hideous roaring noise, horribly vomiting Stones, and such store of Cinders, as overwhelmed all the buildings thereabout and the healthful Baths of *Tripergula* celebrated for so many Ages, consuming the Vines to Ashes, and killing Birds and Beasts; The fearful Inhabitants of *Puteoli* flying away in the dark, with their Wives and Children, naked, defiled, crying out and detesting their Calamities, Manifold mischiefs had they suffered by the *Turks*, and *Barbarians*, yet none like this which Nature Inflicted; This Mountain is to be seen at this day, the top whereof is above a mile from the Foundation, the stones upon it are so light and pory, that they will not sink when thrown into Water; when it was
newly

newly raised, it had a vast number of Vents or Issues, some of them smoaking and likewise flaming, others disgorging little Rivers of hot water, keeping a dreadful rumbling, and many miserably perished who ventured to go down into the hollowness above; But that hollow on the top is now an Orchard, and the Mountain throughout is bereft of its Terrors, no more smok, fire or flames issuing any longer therefrom, But to return.

LXVIII. A little before the Marquess *Hamilton* came with the *Scotch* Army into *England*, two Armies were seen in *Yorkshire* in the Air, discharging and shooting against each other, and after a long fight the Army which rose out of the North vanished; Likewise about the same time at *Beccles* in *Northumberland* it rained blood, which covered the Church and Churchyard. In 1642, at the time of the bloody Rebellion in *Ireland*, when the Papists murdered above Two Hundred Thousand Innocent Protestants without the least Provocation, these Prodigies happened in that Kingdom as they were deposed upon Oath by divers Persons examined about the same; At *Portendown* Bridge in the Province of *Ulster*, the *Irish* Inhabitants thereabout were so affrighted with Cryes and Noises made there by some Spirits for Revenge, that they were forced to remove their habitations, not daring to return thither again; Likewise the blood of some of those Innocents who were massacred there, remained long upon the Bridge, and could not be washed out; There appeared also the shapes of Men and Women breast high above Water, who did lamentably and fearfully screech and cry out for vengeance against the *Irish* who had murdered their Bodies there; December 20. 1641. the bloody Rebels having at one time drowned one hundred and four-score Protestant Men, Women and Children in this River by the Bridge, about nine days after a Spirit in the shape of a man appeared in that place breast high above the Water, with his hands lifted up, stand-

standing in that posture several times, till the latter end of *Lent* next following, and was seen by very many; And a Mother of some of those Children who were drowned there, going one Evening to the Bridge with some other Women whose Husbands had likewise been drowned, upon a sudden there appeared to them a Vision of a Woman naked to the waist in the water, with elevated and closed hands, her hair hanging down very white, her Eyes seeming to wrinkle, and her skin as white as snow, often repeating the word, *Revenge, Revenge, Revenge.* Further, Thirty Women and young Children, and Seven men were flung by these barbarous Rebels into the River of *Belteroot*, and when some of them swum for their Lives toward the bank, they were knocked on the head with Poles by these merciless Tygers; Being dead, their Bodies appeared not as usual, till about six weeks after, at which time one *Mulmore O Roly*, who had commanded them to be murdered, coming to the place, all the Bodies came floating up to the Bridge. Sir *Con Mac Gennis* with his Souldiers murdered one Mr. *Truge* Minister of *Newry*, but shortly after falling sick, upon his death bed he was terribly afflicted, seeming always to see the same Mr. *Truge* in his presence; Also Dr. *Robert Maxwell* Arch-deacon of *Down* testified upon his Oath, That the Rebels themselves assured him, that most of those who were thrown from that Bridge were dayly and nightly seen to walk upon the River, sometime singing Psalms, sometimes brandishing Swords, sometimes skreiking out in a most hideous and fearful manner.

LXIX. In 1642, before the Fight at *Edghil* three Suns were seen in the North. In 1645, Many other Apparitions were visible in the North, with divers *Pandæ's* or Mocksuns, and an Eclipse of the Sun; All *England* saith Mr. *Gadbury* was at this time together by the Ears: The next year the *Scots* return home again, The *Engl's* go into *Ireland*, and subdue the Rebels there; In the Moneth of *May* this year it rained

rained Brimstone, at *Wittenburg* in *Germany*; and a great Wood belonging to the Dukedom of *Norimburg*, in that Countrey, of eight thousand Acres of Land, fell on Fire, and was burned to Ashes; In *January* 1648, there was seen a great Fiery Meteor in the Air near *Bristol* on the Southside of the City for divers nights together, of a long form, with fiery Beams shooting out East and West, which was but a week before the Martyrdom of his late Majesty; also the day before his Death, a great Whale ran himself ashore three miles from *Dover*, where he dyed; He was sixty six foot long, a thing rarely seen in this Island. this I was informed of by an Eye-witness saith Mr. *Clark*. I very well remember (saith Mr. *John Gadbury*) that in the year 1649; the very year wherein *Charles* late King of *England* was beheaded, it was generally, (I will not say truly) reported, that he without his head was seen to hover in the Air over *Whitehall*, the place where he suffered, for many nights together; Nay I have heard some affirm, That he was seen sometime with his George upon his Breast in the manner and form as he wore it when he came upon the Scaffold, and that sometimes again he was seen to appear in his Watchet Waistcoat only; Neither of these sights did I ever see (saith he) nor can enjoin any ones faith to believe; However if the report were true, (and I know not what advantage any man can reap by reporting such things as these if they were not) it may very well be accounted a thing Prodigious and Remarkable. *J. Gadbury.*

LXX. In 1650. *Jan.* 18. In the night time was a terrible storm, and Armies and armed Troops in every place for twelve miles compass about *Melton* in *Yorkshire*, were heard to ride and march through the Towns. The Cattle and Beasts in those Places were so affrighted that most of them broke out of their Pastures, some by leaping broke their necks, others their Legs, some ran away above four miles off, who when found were extreemly heated, One Ox that lay

in a stackyard lame, and could not rise without help, in this fright broke forth, and was found a mile off, and was brought home upon a sled. In *March* following, 3 glorious Suns were seen at once in *Cumberland* to the astonishment of many Thousands which beheld them; In *April* the same year, about 5 a Clock in the afternoon in the Countys of *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* was a genetal Earthquake wherewith the People were so affrighted, that many of them forsook their Houses, and some Houses were so shaken, that the Chimneys fell down. The same year, 1650, the Island of *Santorin*, at the bottom of the *Streights* in the *Mediterranean* Sea, not far from *Candia*, had formidable Fires and Earthquakes; This Island was formerly called *Thera*, but now *Santorin*, and started up out of the Sea, for *Baronius* out of *Pliny* thus writes; In the year 726 a vapour was seen to bubble forth out of a Chimney of Fire, between the Islands of *Thersia*, or *Santorin*, from the very bottom of the Sea, which continued some days, and the Fire and Smoak growing thicker by degrees, spread it self abroad with mighty flames, and with the vastness of its strength, it cast out huge Rocky Pumice Stones, and great heaps of other matter, which it carried through all *Asia*, *Lesbos*, and *Abydus*, and the Sea-coasts of *Macedonia*, so that the whole Surface of the Sea was covered with these Pumices; But in the middle of so great a Fire, there was an Island made from the heaping up of that matter, and joyned to the Island, called *The Sacred*, which never was in being before; There was likewise another Island next to this formed in 1570, not without great terror of those of *Santorin*; Since the burning lasted for a year, as some ancient People who saw it with their Eyes did lately testifie; But in the middle of this smaller new Island which is now called little *Camena* there is to be seen to this very day an huge deep Ditch, which being narrow toward the bottom, grows bigger by degrees like a Funnel, out of which as out of

a Chimney those mighty Stones and Rocks did burst forth, which being mixt with Cinder and Ashes compos'd the rest of that Isle.

But if ever these Fires pent up in the Bowels of the Earth exercised their force, it was most remarkable upon *September 24. 1650.* which shook the Island till the ninth of *October*, with such mighty and frequent Earthquakes, that the People of *Santorin* fearing that their immediate ruin was approaching, were on their knees night and day before their Altars; It cannot be expressed what an horror invaded all men, especially when those victorious flames breaking through all Obstacles, strove to make themselves a way through the midst of the Waters of the Ocean about four miles Eastward from *Santorin*; For the Sea all on a sudden swelled Thirty Cubits upward, and extending it self wide through the Neighbouring Lands, overturned all in its way; Insomuch that it broke in pieces several Ships and Gallies in the very Haven of *Candia*, with its extraordinary violence, though fourscore miles distant from thence; The Air being darkned with those sulphurous stinking vapours, put on innumerable Forms and Apperances, as of Fiery Lances, and Swords brandished and shaken, bright and glittering Arrows darting forth; Here terrible Serpents and Dragons seemed to be flying, There hideous Thunderclaps, Lightnings and Thunderbolts; And yet they could scarce see, for the Peoples Eyes were so hurt with those sharp, pricking, sulphurous smoaks, and vapours, that almost all became blind for 3 days, with such grievous pains in their Eyes, that they wept continually, and bewailed their most miserable Fate; But when their eye-sight returned, they saw all their Silver and Gold, both Vessels and Garments, and Pictures, spread over with a yellow colour; and such a vast multitude of Pumice stones did this fiery Gulph vomit forth, that it covered the Sea, so that they could scarce pass in a Vessel; It is most certain that they were carryed
many

many hundred miles, even to *Smyrna* and *Constantinople*, and all the Shoars and Coasts were filled therewith; The fury of this Burning was greatest for the first two Moneths, which caused the Neighbour Sea to bubble like a boyling Pot, and night and day huge Globes and Flakes of Fire, and exceeding thick smoke mounted up to the Heavens; which if at any time it was carryed by contrary winds to any places near at hand, besides a most grievous stink, it brought certain destruction upon Birds and Beasts, yea, upon men themselves; As it happened in *October* and *November* this year, that fifty Husbandmen miserably perished thereby, besides an innumerable multitude of Birds, Sheep, Oxen, and Ases; The like happened to nine Mariners, who passing that way in their ship by night, after 3 days were all found half burnt, and were buried in the Island *Nio* threescore miles from *Santorin*; But the other 4 months (for it flamed six in all) though that Hellish Hearth or Furnace abated much of its vigour and fierce heat, and could scarce lift it self above the Waves, yet it still seemed to cast out Pumice stones, and to be labouring to form a new Island which though it does not yet appear above Water yet in a calm Sea, it is observed to be very shallow thereabout, the Water being in that place not above eight Cubits deep.

LXXI. In 1651. The River of *Sain*, which runs through *Paris* in *France* swelled so much, that all the Houses near it were in danger to have been ruined thereby, and very much hurt was done; The same year, *March* 4, the day before the Burial of the late Prince of *Orange*, a full Tyde of the Sea broke the Dam or Bank of *St. Anthony* in *Holland*, and overflowed all that part which is called *Diemer Meer*; There happened likewise thereby, very great damage in *North-Holland*, but at *Amsterdam* the water grew so high, that the People were compelled to go in Boats through the Streets, besides which, it came into their

their Cellars and Warehouses, thereby spoyling a vast quantity of Merchandises to the value of many Tuns of Gold. The same year Sept. 14, a Prodigious Judgment happened at Bilbao in Spain, whereof I have a Letter by me written by a Merchant of good credit (saith Mr. Clark) which thus relates it. *Sir I presume that before this comes to your hands, you will hear of Gods great Judgment upon this Town which hath caused such a destruction as is impossible to be described, and at present 'tis not thoroughly known what damage it hath done; upon the eighth of this Moneth it pleased God (not by any extraordinary rains from Heaven to our thinking) to open the Mountainslike Fountains, and to cause the Seas to swell, that in less than four hours it overflowed the Town throughout sixteen foot high, which prevented us not only from saving our Goods, but also with great hazard of our lives have we escaped; yet many lost their Lives with great destruction both of the Houses and Walls; For my own part I feared my life, for my house trembled under me extreemly, so that not only myself, but my whole Family had been destroyed, had it continued but a small time longer, though the Water ebbed not for Twenty four hours; Many Iron Mills were destroyed, many Thousand Loads of Charcoal were carryed away, many bags of Wool spoiled; All their Shops with their Goods were much damaged; God knows the trouble we underwent, and still I am every day in the mud half my height, looking after my Goods, and am fain to keep many men digging to find them, and am looking out for bread to maintain my Family; a little Chicken costs us two shillings in Spanish Plate; In brief, neither Horse, Mule, Hog, nor any other Living Creature that goes upon the ground hath escaped drowning, but only such as fled to the tops of the Mountains, The destruction and losses of this Town are unspeakable. the very pavement and ground being carryed away at least Ten Foot deep, and the River hath altered its Chanel; The first work that we now set upon (by command of Authority) is to throw away the Fish which the water brought with it, which being tainted, smells so abominably, that we fear it will bring the Plague amongst*

amongst us, but we hope by to morrow night to throw it all into the River, and thereby be rid of this stink, and our next work must be to cleanse the River.

LXXII. In 1652, There was a great Eclipse of the Sun, and Two Eclipses of the Moon: A Two handed Sword was seen in the Air in *Cheshire*, and Armies of men encountering each other, appeared in the North, a Comet was visible in the Signs *Gemini* and *Taurus* from December 11, to the 30. This year the *English* subdued *Scotland*, and beat the *Dutch* at Sea; They beat the *French* at Sea this year also; The *English* Parliament, surnamed the *Long*, are turned out of Doors by their own Army. In 1653, *Oliver Cromwell* a private Gentleman by Birth, but then General of the Army, assumes the Government of Great Britain by the Title of Lord Protector of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*; The King of the *Romans*, and the Pope in two years after dye; strange and unheard of Alterations in Law and Government here in *England*, new Courts of Justice, Council of State, Major Generals. In 1654 was another Eclipse of the Sun, and an Earthquake in the West of *England*; Apparitions are visible in the Air in the North of *England*; A very great Rain falls in *Bohemia*; At this time the *English* take *Jamaica*, and make War with *Spain*. The *English* and *Swedes* unite; In 1655. Castles, Cities and Towns appear in the Air in *England*, and seem to be besieged, the different Actions and Gestures of Men, both Commanders and Souldiers being plainly visible; This year Cardinal *Guisi* is made Pope by the Title of *Innocent* the 10. The *Polanders* are routed by the *Swedes*: In 1656, An Earthquake happened in *Cheshire*, doing much harm, sinking the Ground, and rending up many Trees by the Roots, to the great damage of the Countrey. In November a fiery Dragon was seen in the Air in *Scotland*; This year the *English* land in *Flanders*, and take *Mardike* from the *Spaniards*, they become angry thereat, and Wars between them grow high; The

162 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

The King of Denmark was twice invaded by the King of Sweden; There fell such abundance of Rain at Vienna in Germany, that the River Danubius swelling above its banks, the violence of the Waters broke down all the Bridges, and most of their Mills; Yea, the Water came into their Suburbs, called, *The Jews Suburbs*, drowning many Persons, and carrying away a very great number of Cattel, and did so great mischief to the Countrey that the loss was thought inestimable, there being sixteen Towns and Villages swept away by the Flood. *Gadbury de Comet.*

LXXIII. In 1658, A great Whale came up to Greenwich near London, a thing seldom known before; This year Dunkirk was taken by the English; Sir Henry Slingsby and Dr. Hewit being condemned by an High Court of Justice as they called it, were beheaded at Towerhill, and Sept. 3. following, which used to be a great day of Triumph in Oliver's Court for two great Victories at Dunbar and Worcester, was turned into a day of Mourning by the Death of their Protector who dyed about 4 or 5 a Clock that day; and Richard Cromwel confidently succeeds him in the Government, as if it had been his just due; Nay some People in England send such sugred Addresses to him, that he believed himself to be what they flatteringly stiled him: The King of Sweden loses much this year and dyes. In 1659, there was a very great Inundation in Holland, which overflowed Thirty Six Thousand Acres of Ground: Also a great Eclipse of the Sun in Scorpio, November 4. Lofty and strange unwonted Winds, In May 1659, the Long Parliament returned, and turned out Richard Cromwell, but were soon after turned out themselves by Lambert and the Army; A Committee of safety is set up; The L. General Monk being troubled to behold the Confusions of the English Proceedings, marched out of Scotland, and after the Committee of Safety was fallen, brings in the secluded Members of the Long Parliament, who soon after dissolve themselves, and call

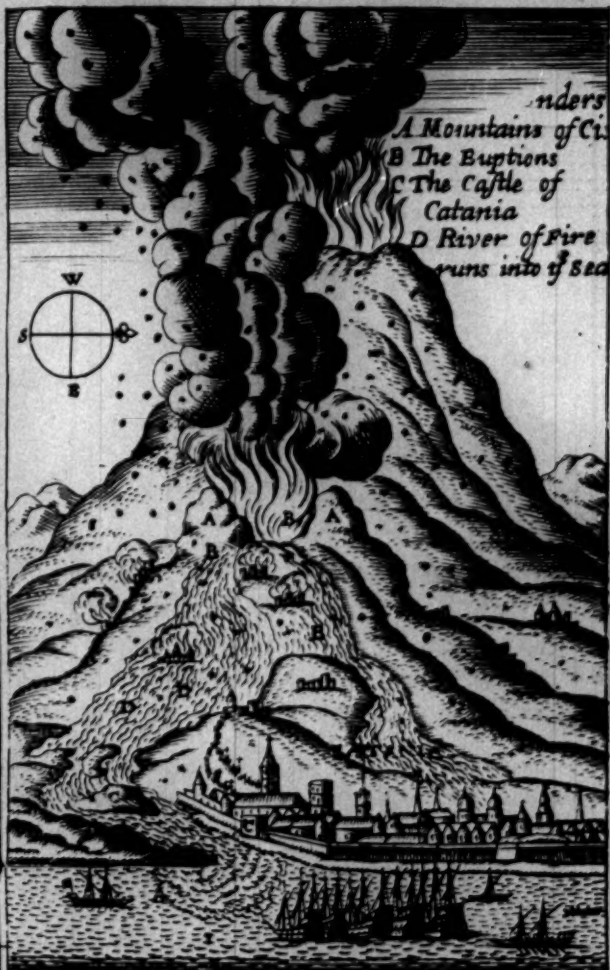
another Parliament who restore His Royal Majesty King *Charles* 2. to His just Rights and Priviledges, whom God preserve with a Long and Happy Reign over us. *Gadbury of Prodigies.* *

LXXIV. In 1660. *Feb.* 20. At *Dantzick* in *Poland*, when the Sun was going down, there were seen seven Suns together very distinctly in the Heavens, three of them coloured, and three white, besides the True Sun it self, about which was a Circle much like a Rainbow. In 1661. *Jan.* 28. There is a Relation that near *Worsop* in *Nottinghamshire* there was an appearance of a gallant Troop of Horse marching, which a Justice of Peace having notice of, related to a Person of Honour, thinking them to be real Men and Horses, but upon a strict inquiry, it was concluded to be only an Apparition; The same Relation says about that time, there happened a strange and dreadful storm of Hail at *Northampton*, and fire mingled with the hail in some places, and that it did run upon the ground in great sheets of Fire for a considerable way together: It fell upon some part of *Willinborough Town* in *Northamptonshire*: Upon *February* 18. this year very early in the morning began a dreadful storm of *Wind* accompanied with Thunder, Lightning, Hail and Rain, which killed divers Persons by the fall of Houses and Chimneys, and did very great damage in many places of *England*. In 1662, about six a Clock in the Evening, there appeared (saith my Author) in the Heavens near *Dover*, on the South-side of the Town, a fiery Meteor in the form of an Ensign and Banner, broad at one end, and narrow at the other, according to the Judgment of the Spectators about 14 yards in length, it was of a fiery red colour, and flew with great swiftnes from about the Seamark called the *Devils drop* toward *Dover Castle*, and so over the Castle about a mile in length, winding in its motion, and then gradually vanishe. This was attested by the Spectators themselves.

LXXV. In

164. *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

LXXV. In 1664. About the beginning of *December* a Comet appeared in *Europe*, the body whereof was very large, and its Tail of a very great length, it pointed Westward both as it arose and as it sate, and this constantly from the beginning of its appearance to the time of its vanishing; They writ from *Edenborough*, that it was very remarkable in that it had a stream issuing from the side of it like a red flame out of the mouth of a *Furnace*, and Mr. *Gadbury* relates that a Letter which he received from *Cranfeild* in *Bedfordshire* gives an Account that upon *December 27.* not far from the Comet was the appearance of a blue and purple colour, all full of Leprous Spots, it was round, and as big as five Moons; not long before this, saith Mr. *Gadbury*, we had news of the shape of a black Coffin seen in the Air at *Hamburg*, and other parts in *Germany* and *Flanders*; And the very day that the last Prodigy was seen, saith he, I met with a Letter in our News-books dated from *Erford* in *Germany*, *Decemb. 27.* the Contents whereof were these; *We have had our part here of the Comet as well as other places, besides which, here have been other terrible Apparitions and noises in the Air, as Fires and Sounds of Canon and Musket-shot, and here has likewise appeared several times the resemblance of a black man, who has made our Sentinels to quit and run away from their Posts; Now, saith he, though I have no great Faith in Apparitions of this Nature, as knowing that Melancholy heads by the strength of Fancy and Imagination, may conceit they see such things that really are not; yet when such Fancies shall really possess the General Opinion, it is to be presumed that something more than common, will befall mankind, and our fears do seem to prepare us for the embraces of that mischief we dread. This year began a War with the Hollanders and His Majesties Fleet off Portsmouth took an hundred and twelve Ships small and great from the Dutch, most of which were adjudged Lawful Prize.*



The Lamentable Irruption of *Ætna* the
 Burning Mountain in 1669. Page. 161.

LXXVI. And here I cannot omit what I find related in the History of *Ceylon* an Island in the *East-Indies*, published by Captain *Robert Knox*, who was a Captive there for near Twenty years ; It happened, saith he that in *December 1661.* there was a dangerous Rebellion in this Countrey against their King, about which time there appeared a fearful Blazing Star ; Just at the instant of this Rising the Star was right over our heads, and one thing I very much wondred at, that whereas before this Insurrection the Tail stood away toward the West, from whence this Rebellion sprung, yet the very night after, for I well observed it, the Tail was turned and stood away toward the East, and by degrees it diminished quite away ; At this time I say, the People of this Land having been long and sore oppressed by this Kings unreasonable and cruel Government, contrived a Plot against him : He used to shed a great deal of blood without the least Reason, his Cruelty appearing both in the Tortures and painful deaths which he inflicted, and in the extents of his punishments in destroying whole Families for the miscarriage of one Person ; For when he is displeased with any, he does not always command to kill them outright, but first to torment them, which is done by cutting and pulling away their flesh with Pincers, burning them with hot Irons clapt to them to make them confess their Confederates, whereby they many times confess more than they ever saw or knew to be rid of their Torments ; After Confession he sometimes commands to hang their two hands about their necks, and to make them eat their own flesh, and Mothers to eat their own Children, and so to lead them through the City in publick view to terrifie all, to the place of Execution, the Dogs following to eat them ; who are so accustomed to it, that seeing a Prisoner led away, they follow after ; At the place of Execution, there are some always sticking upon Poles, others hanging up in Quarters upon Trees, besides what

lye killed by Elephants on the ground, or by other ways ; His wrath is not appeased (as aforementioned) by the Execution of the Malefactor, but oft times he punisheth all his Generation, it may be he kills them altogether, or gives them all away for Slaves ; so far is he from regarding the good of his Countrey, that he rather endeavours the destruction thereof, for being now between seventy and eighty years old, therefore Nature tells him he must leave it ; However there is no love lost between the King and his People, which occasioned them to enter into the aforesaid Conspiracy against him ; The Design was to assault the Kings Court in the night, and to slay him, and make the Prince his Son King. He being then about 15 years of Age, and was with his Mother the Queen in the City of *Cande* ; The time appointed to Act it was *Decemb. 20. 1664*, at twelve a Clock at night, and having got about two hundred men, (not needing any more.) since they had so many Confederates at Court, in the dead of the night, they came marching into the City of *Nillemby* where the King then was, The Captain of the Watch was thought to be of their Party, but if he were not, it was not in his power to resist them, however he was afterward executed for it. Being entred the City, they hastened down to the Court, and fell upon the Great men who lay then without the Palace, upon the Guard ; Many who were not intrusted with the Design were killed, and those that could make their escape, got in unto the King, who was secured only with a Clay wall thatched, which was all his strength ; yet these People were afraid to assault his Person, lying still till the morning ; At which time the King made his escape unto the Mountains with only Fifty Persons, There were some Horses went with him, but the ways were so bad, that he could not ride ; They were fain to drive an Elephant before him to break the way through the Woods, that the King with his Followers might pass. As he fled, the Conspirators

per-

pursued him, but at a great distadce for fear of some excellent Fowling Pieces which he had with him, and so he got safe to the Mountain *Gauluda* about 15 miles off, where many of the Inhabitants thereabout resorted to him; But if the Rebel Party had been resolute, who were the greater number, even almost all the Kingdom, this Hill could not have secured him, but they might have driven him from thence, there being many ways by which they might have ascended.

The People having thus driven away, the old King marched away to the City of *Cande*, and proclaimed the Prince to be King, telling us *English*, that what they had done was not rashly, but upon good Consideration and advice, the King by his evil Government having occasioned it, who went about to destroy both them and their Countrey; As in detaining Ambassadors; hindering of all Trade, making Prisoners of all people that come upon his Land, and killing his Subjects and their Children, not suffering them to enjoy, nor to see their Wives; And that all this was contrary to reason, and as they were informed to the Government of other Countreys; The Prince being young and tender, and having never been out of the Pallace, nor ever seen any but those that attended on his Person, was affrighted to see so many coming, and bowing down to him, and telling him that he was *King*, and his Father was fled into the Mountains; neither did he say or act any thing, as not owning the business, or else not knowing what to say or do; This much discouraged the Rebels, to see they had no Thanks for their pains, and so all things stood till, *Decemb.* 25. 1664, at which time they intended to march and fall upon the old King; But in the mean time the Kings Sister flies away with the Prince from the City, into the Countrey near the King, which so amazed the Rebels, that the Money, Cloth, and plunder which they had taken, and were going to distribute

but to strangers to joyn with them, they scattered about the Town, and fled away; Others of their Company seeing the business was overthrown, to make amends for their former Fact, revolted and fell upon their Consorts, killing and taking Prisoners all they could; The People were now all up in Arms against each other, killing whom they pleased, (only saying they were Rebels) and taking their Goods; By this time a great Man had drawn out his Souldiers into the Field, and declared for the old King, and so went to seize the Rebels that were scattered abroad; but understanding they were all fled, and no whole Party or Body left to resist him, he marched into the City, killing all he could catch; And so all revolted, and came back to the King again, whilst he only lay still upon his Mountain; The King needed to take no care to seize or execute the Rebels, for they themselves out of their zeal to him, and to make amends for what was past, imprisoned, and killed all they met, the Plunder being their own; This continued 8 or 10 days, which the King hearing of, commanded to kill no more, but only to imprison them till examination, which was not so much to save the Innocent, as that he might torment the Rebels, and make them confess their Confederates, for he spared none that seemed guilty, and some to this day lye chained in Prison, being sequestred of all their Estates, and beg for their Living; The King could not be insensible but that it was his rigorous Government which occasioned this Rebellion, yet amended it not in the least, but like *Rehoboam* added yet more to the Peoples yoke; And being thus safely reinstated in his Kingdom again, and observing that the Life of his Son gave encouragement to the Rebellion, he resolved for the future to prevent it by taking him away, and about a year after, his Son being sick, the King takes this Opportunity to dispatch him, by pretending to send Physick to him to cure him, but was really Poison, which soon made an end of him; The People hear-

ing of the death of the Prince, according to the Custom of that Countrey when any of the Royal Blood dye, came all in General toward the City where he was, with black, or else very dirty Cloths, which is their mourning, the men all bare-headed, the Women with their hair loose and hanging about their Shoulders to mourn and lament for the Death of their young Prince ; which the King hearing of, sent them word, That since it was not his Fortune to live to sit on the Throne after him, and Reign over the Land, it would be but in vain to mourn and a great trouble and hindrance to the Countrey, and their voluntary good will was taken in as good part as the mourning it self, and so dismiss the Assembly, and burned the Princes dead body without Ceremonies or Solemnities ; but one thing there is that argues him guilty of Imprudence, and horrible Ingratitude, that most of those who went along with him when he fled, of whose Loyalty he had such ample Experience he hath since cut off, and that with extream Cruelty too ; In *February* two years after, there appeared in this Countrey another Comet or Stream in the West, with the head of it under the Horizon, much like that seen in *England* in 1680. The sight of this did much daunt both King and People, having so lately felt the sad Event of a Blazing Star ; The King sent men to the highest Mountains in the Land to look if they could perceive the head of it, which they could not, it being still under the Horizon ; This continued visible about a Month, and by that time was so diminished as not to be seen ; But there were no remarkable Passages ensued upon it.

LXXVII. About five or six nights after the extinction of the first Comet which was seen in *England*, and in the same Moneth of *December* another Comet was visible, which continued till the middle of *January* following, it was much less than the former, seeming about the bigness of an ordinary

Trencher Plate, about 8 Inches over, and had prickly Rays dispersed round about it; In *April 1665*, following, a Third Comet was seen much of the Nature and colour of the first, only a little more Joyial; This year, *June 3*. A great Victory was obtained by His Majesties Fleet under his Royal Highness the Duke of *York* against the whole *Dutch Fleet*, wherein above Thirty Capital Ships were taken and destroyed, and near Eight Thousand men killed and taken Prisoners; A great Plague began in *London*, and this year there dyed in all ninety seven thousand three hundred and six, whereof of the Plague sixty eight thousand five hundred ninety six; In *February* this year, there was a great Tempest, accompanied with Thunder, Lightning, and an Earthquake in divers p'aces; at which time the stately Spire of *Trinity Church* in *Coventry* fell down, and demolished a great part of the Church, killing only one man; and in *Hampshire* a Justice of Peace riding by the way, was slain and burnt by Lightning; In *August, 1666*, Sir *Robert Holmes* destroyed above one hundred and fifty Sail of *Dutch Ships* at the *Fly* in *Holland*, and burnt the Town of *Bandaris* upon the Island of *Schelling*, containing at least a Thousand Houses, *Sept. 2*. about one a Clock in the morning, a sudden and lamentable Fire broke out in the City of *London*, beginning in a place called *Pudding-Lane*, near *New Fish-street*, which in 4 days time burnt down Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Houses.

LXXVIII. In 1668, in Autumn, a great part of *Asia*, and some parts of *Europe* were infested with extraordinary Earthquakes; The Cities of *Constantinople* and *Adrianople* felt its sad Effects, but not with that violence and continuance as in other Places; In some parts of *Persia* it continued for above four-score days; *Torqueto* and *Bolio* two considerable Cities, were by its great violence layd even to the ground, and all or most of the Inhabitants buried in the Ruins, above six thousand Persons perished in the first

first of them, and above eighteen hundred in the latter ; And in all the adjacent Cities it raged with extraordinary fury, destroying and ruining the Buildings, killing many of the People, and the rest were forced to quit the Towns, and take up their Lodgings in the Fields. About the beginning of *August* 1669, there came two Whales and a Grampas up the River of *Tames*, whereof one of the Whales, and the Grampas were killed, and the other Whale which was the bigger, returned back into the Sea ; *September* 4. following, saith Mr. *Clark*, news was brought to our Kings Majesty of the Death of the Queen Mother, who dyed in *France* *July* 31. in the Sixtieth year of her Age.

LXXIX. In *March* the beginning of this year 1669, there happened a most dreadful Earthquake and Irruption of Mount *Ætna* in *Sicily*, of which before I give a particular Account, it may not be unproper to describe the Mountain it self, as it has been related by divers famous Historians ; *Ætna* or Mount *Gibello*, called by *Pindar* the *Celestial Column* or *Pillar*, is the highest Mountain in *Sicily*, from whence all the Island may be seen at once, and in a clear day the Eye may even reach *Africa*, it rears up its top or Spire Thirty miles into the Sky, and may be seen forty or fifty miles at Sea, but its compass is sixty, others say an hundred miles space, it appears Eastward with two shoulders, having an eminent head in the middle, The lower parts are luxuriously fruitful, and the abundance of fat oily matter which is cast out of it, makes the Soyl thereof as well as of the whole Island Incredibly fruitful in the best Wine, Oyl, Honey, Saffron, Minerals also of Gold, Silver, Silks and Allom, with variety of excellent and delicious Fruits, and abundance of all sorts of Grain, so that it was called in old time, *The Granary of the Roman Empire* ; The middle of the Mountain is woody and shady, the upper part rocky, steep, and almost covered with Snow ; yet smoaking in the midst like many

conjoynd Chimneys, and vomiting intermitted flames, usually discernable only by night, as if heat and cold had left their Contentions, and imbraced one another, for though it continually burns, with most fervent smoak and fire, yet round about the top are seen perpetual and most deep mows, the uppermost top is broken and cragged with unstable Cinders and Pumice stones, and cleavs open with a most vast *Crater* or mouth twelve miles in compass, which in a steep descent fireightens it self narrower even to the bottom of Hell as it were; A most horrible precipice it is, exceeding formidable with flames and fumes from the very bottom and sides of the Mountain, with an horrendous roaring and bellowing not unlike the bursting forth of Thunders, so that the very imagination and thoughts of the Fire and Ruins so nigh at hand, cannot but at first sight amaze, and afright any humane Creature, and make him start from it, as from the Infernal Gulph of Hell; On one side within are most dark and dreadful Dens, one whereof is so vast, as to be capable to contain Thirty Thousand Men; In many places you may see the tracts and paths of huge Torrents of melted matter; In the very top, Snows and Ashes, or Cinders, as if they had concluded an Eternal Wedlock, are seen to overwhelm all things with a sad and doleful countenance, which are very dangerous to unvary Visitors, because under them there lye concealed deep holes, and devouring Gulphs, without bottom or end, which have swallowed up very many, coming unadvisedly too near without a Guide, and by their ruine have left warnings to others not rashly to venture upon these hidden deceits which have cheated mortals of their Lives; In the utmost bottom of this Hellish Gulf the Fire is at no time extinguished, but always sends forth either boyling heat, smoak or flame, yet outwardly it begins to grow fierce and terrible only at certain intervalls of time more or less according to the Combustible matter heaped together; and by how much

much longer it hath ceased, by so much it bursts forth with greater violence, and together with the Flame, sends forth huge heaps of Sands, and Prodigious Stones of wondrous weight.

These Fires have broke forth in several Ages of the World, to the great terror and destruction of the Inhabitants, and all the adjacent Countreys; As in the year of the world 2600 when the Posterity of *Janus* went to seek new Colonies, they first entred *Sicily*, where at that time there was so great a burning of the Mountain, that the new Planters leaving the Island for fear of Desolation, went to seek new habitations in *Italy*; after them followed the *Sicani*, who were likewise driven away from these Eastern Parts, to the Western by these dreadful *Aetnan* burnings. In the year of the world 3180, and for above four hundred years after, this Mountain was all on fire with three huge burnings; A little after the Mountain raging anew, it is said to have drawn *Pythagoras* himself into the highest admiration; Also in the Reign of *Hero*, at which time Histories deliver that *Empedocles* an Observer of the Mountain was destroyed. In the time of *Julius Caesar*, about fifty years before Christ, *Diodorus* relates, That *Aetna* raged most violently, which they said portended the Death of *Caesar*; It is reported to have been so great, that the Sea with its fervour and boyling heat burnt even the very Ships, even as far as the *Vulcanello's*, All the Fish being destroyed and boyled to death; yea within twenty years, the Mountain burnt four times. In the Reign of *Caius Caligula* forty nine years after Christ, the Mountain raged so, that the Emperor at that time in *Sicily* was so affrighted, that he betook himself to safer stations; yet they relate, that the Emperor *Adrian* out of the greatness of his mind did ascend the Mountain very far to consider more nearly such great Miracles; In several Ages after, it made woful irruptions, as from the year 1160, to 1169, all *Sicily* was shaken with huge Earthquakes,

164 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

and the Mountain *Ætna* foaming mightily, overthrew all the circumjacent places with incredible Desolation, with the ruine of the Cathedral Church of *Catania* about ten miles distant, in which Abbot *John* and his Monks were overwhelmed; Many other fearful burnings have happened since that time, but none more horrible for its mighty devastations than that in the year 1669, The Right Honourable the Earl of *Winchelsea* His Majesties late Ambassador at *Constantinople*, in his return from thence, visiting *Catania*, was an Eye-witness of this Prodigious Judgment, whereof he gave the following Account to His present Majesty, King *Charles* the second, as soon as he came to *Naples*.

May it please Your Majesty,

*In my Voyage from Malta to this place, I touched at the City of Catania in Sicily, and was there most kindly In-
vited by the Bishop to lodge in his Palace, which I accepted,
that so I might be the better able to inform your Majesty of
that extraordinary Fire which comes from Mount Gibel,
15 miles distant from that City; which for its horridness in
the aspect, for the vast quantity thereof, (for it is 15 miles
in length, and 7 in breadth) for its monstrous devastation
and quick progress, may be termed an Inundation of Fire, a
Flood of Fire, Cinders and burning Stones, burning with
that Rage as to advance into the Sea 600 yards, and that
to a mile in breadth, which I saw; and that which did
augment my admiration was, to see in the Sea this matter
like ragged Rocks, burning in four fathom water, two fa-
thom higher than the Sea it felt; some parts liquid and mo-
ving, and throwing off, not without great violence, the stones
about it, which like a crust of a vast bigness, and red hot,
fell into the Sea every moment, in some place or other, causing
a great and horrible noise, smok and hissing in the Sea;
and thus more and more coming after it, making a firm
foundation in the Sea it self. I stayed there from nine a
Clock on Saturday morning, to seven next morning, and
this Mountain of Fire and Stones, with Cinders, had ad-
vanced into the Sea 20 yards at least, in several places;
in the middle of this Fire, which burn'd in the Sea, it
bath*

bath formed a passage like to a River, with its Banks on each side very steep and craggy, and in this Channel moves the greatest quantity of this Fire, which is the most liquid, with stones of the same composition, and Cinders all red hot, swimming upon the Fire of a great magnitude;

From this River of Fire (under the great Masse of the Stones which are generally three fathom high all over the Country, where it burns and in other places much more.) there are secret Conduits or Rivalets of this liquid matter, which Communicate Fire and heat into all parts more or less, and melts the Stones and Cinders by fits in those places where it toucheth them, over and over again; where it meets with Rocks or Houses of the same matter (as many are) they melt and go away, with the Fire; where they find other compositions they turn them to lime or ashes, (as I am informed.) The composition of this Fire, Stones and Cinders, are Sulphur, Nitre, Quick-silver, Sal-Armoniac, Lead, Iron, Brass, and all other Mettals. It moves not regularly, nor constantly down hill; in some places it hath made the Valleys Hills, and the Hills that were not high are now Valleys. When it was night I went upon two Towers in divers places, and could plainly see at 10 miles distance, as we judged, the Fire to begin to run from the Mountain in a direct line, the flame to ascend as high and as big as one of the highest and greatest Steeples in Your Majesties Kingdoms, and to throw up great Stones into the Air; I could discern the River of Fire to descend the Mountain of a terrible fiery or red colour, and stones of a paler Red, to swim thereon, and to be some as big as an ordinary Table. We could see this fire to move in several other places, and all the Country covered with Fire, ascending with great Flames; in many places, smothering like to a violent furnace of Iron melted, making a noise with the great pieces that fell, especially those which fell into the Sea. A Cavalier of Malta, who lives there, and attended me, told me, that the River was as liquid where it issues out of the Mountain, as water, and came out like a Torrent with great violence, and is five or six fathom deep, and as broad, and that no stones do sink therein. I assure Your Majesty, no Pen can express how

terrible it is, nor can all the Art and Industry of the world quench, or divert that which is burning in the Country. In 40 days time it hath destroyed the habitations of 27 thousand persons, made two Hills of one, 1000 paces high a-piece, and one is four miles in compass, Of 20000 persons which inhabited Catania, 3000 did only remain; all their Goods are carryed away, the Cannons of Brass are removed out of the Castle, some great Bells taken down, the City-Gates Walled up next the Fire, and preparation made all to abandon the City.

That night which I lay there, it rained Ashes all over the City, and Ten Miles at Sea it troubled my Eyes. This Fire in its Progress met with a Lake of Four Miles in compass, and it was not only satisfied to fill it up, though it was four fathom deep but built made of it a Mountain. I send also to Your Sacred Majesty the following Account in Print which the Bishop gave me, as it is collected out of divers Relations from Catania.

Mount *Aetna*, or *Monte Gibella*, a Mountain so Renowned throughout the World for its height and greatness, but more for those Prodigious Flames, Smoak, and Ashes which it hath cast out from the top of it, whilst the other parts are continually (even in the midst of Summer) cover'd with Snow, has been for many Ages observ'd once, or sometimes oftner, in the space of about fifteen years to throw up more than ordinary Flames with much Smoak and Stones, and great quantities of Ashes; which (though terrible to the Neighbouring Towns and Villages) was yet went, in little time, to abate of its fury, and prove but seldom more injurious to the Country near it, than by communicating largely its ashes, which though for the present it did somewhat incommodate them, they had afterwards a considerable Compensation in the product of their Lands, which by this means were rendred more fruitful. But on Friday the 18th of March, 1669. the Sun was observed before its setting to appear of a pale and dead colour, which (being contrary to what it ever before appeared

peared to us) struck no small terror into the Inhabitants, all Objects appearing also of the same colour, with a paleness received from that of the Sun: The same night happened in this City as well as the whole Country hereabouts, a terrible and unusual Earthquake, whose strong and unequal motions joyned with horrible Roarings from *Monte Gibello* exceedingly frightened the Inhabitants, but was so extraordinarily violent in the Country adjacent, that the People were forced to abandon their houses, and to fly into the Fields to avoid the danger threatned them from the falling of their houses. The Village of *Nicolosi* was of all others the most dreadfully handled by this furious Earthquake, the houses and other buildings being shaken all in pieces, and buried in their own ruins; the poor people (who had preserved their lives by a timely flight, with such little of their goods as their hasty fears would permit them to carry out with them) continued a night or two in the Fields beholding with grief and astonishment the ruine of their habitations: but observing that by these violent concussions, the Earth began to open in several places, and to threaten them with inevitable ruine, they fled, though with much trouble and amazement to this City. These shakings of the Earth being so frequent and violent, that the people went reeling and staggering, with much difficulty supporting one another from falling, insomuch as what with their want of sleep, the pains they were forced to take in travelling, and the great terrors imprinted on them by what they had seen and suffered, they appeared at their arrival in this City as so many distracted people wholly insensible of what they did.

This dreadful convulsion of the Earth was immediately followed on Monday *March 11.* about 10 at night by 3 terrible Eruptions, much about the same time, and a little distance one from the other.

These said Eruptions were observed to be on the side of *Monte Gibello*, about 2 miles beyond the Mountain

168 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

tain called *Montpilevi*, from whence with a terrible noise it threw up its flames with much fury and violence about a hundred yards in height, its noise not roaring only inwards from the belly of the Mountain as before, but violently cracking like peals of Ordnance or thunder, from the side of it, throwing out vast stones, some of them of 300 pound weight, which being (as it were) shot through the air, fell several miles distant from the place, whilst the whole Air was filled with smoak, burning cinders, and ashes, which fell like a fiery rain upon the Country. In the mean time issued from the side of this Prodigious Mountain a vast Torrent of Melted and burning Matter, which like an Inundation, Drowned, as in a Flood of Fire, the Countrey on this side of it. This Burning River ran down upon the Mountain *Montpilevi*, which, opposing its direct course, it divided it self into two Streams, which encompassed the said Mountain; one of them taking its way by *La Guardia*, the Convent of *St. Anne* and *Malpasso*, the other by the Towns of *Montpilevi*, and *Falicchi*, which in few hours were wholly destroyed and lost, not so much as any sign of them remaining, with several lesser Villages and Farms, and with them the Famous Image of the blessed Lady of the *Annunciata*; which, though highly Reverenced throughout the whole *Island*, esteemed the Wonder of *Sicily* and the whole World, and to which the People with much Devotion resorted in Pilgrimage from the remotest parts, was also swallowed up and consumed by this dreadful Torrent.

This Fiery and burning Deluge immediately spread it self to above six mile in breadth, seeming to be somewhat of the colour of melted and burning Glass; but, as it cooles, becomes hard and Rocky, and every where in its passage leaves Hills and Pyramids of that matter behind it.

At the same time *Monte Gibello* from its top raged with dreadful Flames, which with its noise and Concussions of the Earth which still continued, added

not a little to the Terror of the People, who ran with Cries and Lamentations about the City and Country, expecting nothing but to be swallowed up or consumed by Fire, having no other apprehensions but of Death, and a General Conflagration. The two Torrents of Fire came forward, destroying all things in their way, and by Wednesday, *March 13th*, had on the West-side branched it self into several Streams, and overran *Campo Rotundo*, *St. Pietro*, and *Moscorbiano*, with *La Potielli*, and *St. Antonino*; and on the East-part ruin'd the lower part of *Mascalucia*, and *La Placchi*, taking its way towards this City.

On *Thursday* the 14th, the Wind came Eastwards, on which fell abundance of Rain, which abated not the Progress of the Fire; which on the East-side had from *Mascalucia* made its way to *St. Giovanni di Galermo*, the lower part whereof it destroyed; and passing on, seemed to threaten this City on one side, as did that on the West-side the other. As the Fire approached, the Religious every where appeared with much Devotion, carrying in Procession their Reliques, especially those of *St. Agatha*, the famous Martyr of *Catania*, in which they reposed no small confidence, followed by great multitudes of People, some of them mortifying themselves with Whips, and other signs of Penance, with great Complaints and Cryes, expressing their dreadful expectation of the Events of those Prodigious fiery Inundations.

Whil't the People were thus busied in their Devotions, and astonisht by their Fears, News was brought to the Magistrates of the City, that a considerable number of Thieves and Robbers had taken the opportunity of this general Distraction, to make a Prey of the already distressed People, and that they had murdered several of them for their Goods; and that it was to be fear'd, that the City of *Catania* it self, might run some danger from the great numbers of them which were about the Country, and from thence took their opportunities to get into the Town.

Where-

Whereupon, consultation being had for the prevention of farther mischief from them, the Commander of the Castle was ordered with a considerable number of Horse, and a Party of *Spaniards*, to secure the Country and City against these Robbers; who immediately sent out several Parties with his Provost-Marshal, with Order to seize on all suspected Persons, and such as were not able to give a good account of themselves: and, for such as were taken in the Fact Robbing, to Execute them by Martial-Law, without any farther Tryal; and accordingly caused three pair of Gallows to be set up for their speedy Execution; one before the Gate *Di Aci*, a second in the *Market-place*, and a third before the Gate *Della Decima*, setting strong Guards upon the Gates of the City, and causing all suspected Houses to be searched, an Account to be given in of all Lodgers, and such Persons to be secured, as could any ways fall under a Suspicion. The poor People out of the Country being by this Prodigious Calamity strip out of all their Estates, and reduced to great extremity, fled most of them for refuge and relief to this City, with great Lamentations, moving the Charity of the Magistrates, who were readily inclined to give them the best assistance they were able; and the Citizens, moved by their Complaints and Sufferings, freely open'd their Doores, filling their Houses with as many of those distressed People as they could possibly receive; the Bishop, and all persons of Quality and Estate, contributing largely for their support, till better Order could be taken for the disposing of them.

The City of *Messina* also, and several other Cities (informed of this extraordinary Calamity) sent hither large Supplies of Provisions, offering their best assistance to this place, in case of extremity. All the Elements seemed at this time to make War upon us, and to conspire together for the punishment of the Inhabitants; The Air was continually darkened with Clouds and Smoke, agitated by great and violent Winds,

Winds, and oftentimes showed down great Rains, insomuch as the Sun from the beginning of these Eruptions, very seldom appeared to us, and when it did, (with extraordinary paleness,) for a little time only, and (as it were, abhorring so dreadful a Spectacle) soon hid its face again under a thick Cloud.

The Sea ran much higher than it was wont to do, and by its extraordinary Roaring, and in some places overflowing its Banks, added not a little to our consternation. The Land every where infested with Thieves, insomuch, that till by the extraordinary care taken by the Magistrates and Officers severe execution was done upon such as were apprehended in the Fact, no person was able to stir abroad without danger of his life; whilst the Fire by this prodigious overflowing of the Mountain, threatened to take possession of all.

On Friday the 15th. the stream of fiery Matter which destroyed the lower part of *St. Giovanni di Galermo* divided it self into two parts, one of its branches taking its way toward *Mosterbianco*, the other threatening the City of *Catania*, but this last was observed to move with more slowness than before, having in 24 hours time scarcely gained 20 paces.

On the 18th being Monday, the Torrents being still seen to draw nearer and nearer to this City, the Senate with Monseignor *Cambuchi* the Bishop of this place, followed by all the Clergy Secular and Regular, and an infinite number of people went in a solemn Procession out of this City to *Monte de St. Sofia*, carrying out with greatest Devotion their choicest Relicks, and upon an Altar erected in view of the Mountain, exposed them, where they celebrated Mass and used the Exorcismes accustomed upon such extraordinary occasions, all which time, the Mountain ceased not as before with excessive roaring to throw up its smoak and flames with extraordinary violence, and abundance of great stones, which were carried through the Air, some of them falling within their

their view, though at ten miles distance from the Eruption; the Ashes which proceeded from thence were scattered in great abundance, as well on this City as on the Country adjacent, every where in the Fields with Cinders, and the heat of the said Ashes destroying the Grass, which obliged the people to drive away their Cattle to a farther distance, which would otherwise have perished for want of food.

These streams of ruine daily crept nearer and nearer to this City, but by uneven and irregular motions, according as it was more or less supplied from its fountain; but on Wednesday the 20th. we perceived that that branch of it which seemed most to threaten this City from *St. Giovanni di Galermo* was wholly extinguish'd, and the other which bent its course toward *Mostor-bianco* ran but slowly, and gave us some hopes that its fury was also near spent, but the other Torrent which had before overflow'd *Mostor-bianco*, continued its motion with as much violence as ever, being in breadth above a Musquet shot over; but in probability could not easily overflow to the Westwards which was defended by its Rocky situation; another branch which ran by *Santo Pietro* was observed to be much larger than the rest, and its stream more quick and active, but meeting with some opposition in its way, it made some stop, only sending out a Rivulet toward the Eastwards about three or four yards wide, of its most subtle and active matter, which directed its course towards a small Village about a Furlong distant from its main stream; another Branch threatned *Campo Rotundo*, but bent its course westwards towards the Farm of *Valcorrente*, where its Fiery body was scattered into several deep and rocky places, without any considerable damage.

About this time we had hopes that the violence of this eruption had been over, the Mountain not throwing out its flames with that violence as before, and its noise and roaring in a great measure ceased.

Those who at nearest distance took a view of the
Moun-

Mountain, informed that the top of it, was fallen in, and the Mountain supposed to want near a mile of its former height; that the largest of the Mouths from whence these fiery streams were vented, was about half a mile in compass, but the view of this dreadful Inundation carried so much terror in it as they were not able to express; from all these Mouths were vomited Rivers of a thick and fiery substance of stone and metals melted, whose depth was various according to the several places it filled in its passage, in some places 4, in others 8, 12 or 15 yards and upwards; its breadth in some places 6 miles, in others much more; its flame like that of Brimstone, and its motion like that of Quick-silver; advancing ordinarily very slowly, unless where it was provoked by the addition of a fresh Torrent or some considerable descent. Wheresoever it passed, it left large heaps of its congealed matter, with which it covered and burnt the Earth, melting the Walls of Castles and Houses, throwing down and consuming all before it, nothing being yet found able to resist its force, nor any thing able to quench its burning, water being observed rather to add to its fury; wheresoever it has passed, it has left its dreadful marks behind it, levelling some hills and raising others, so much changing the situation, that not the least trace of any place or Town remains, nothing being to be seen but confused heaps of ragged stone, which yielding a noisome fume, strikes terror and astonishment into all that behold it.

On Friday the 22, the Mountain again roared with much loudness, and threw up from its Mouths a vast quantity of matter, which formed two large hills higher and larger than that of *Montepileri*, with a large bank of the same matter to the Eastward, sending down a violent stream of its liquid matter towards *Malpasso*, much enlarging the former Current, and passing thence to *Campo Rotundo* and *Santo Pietro* completed the ruins of those Towns, driving furiously towards *Moster bianco*; the other stream by *Santo Gio-*

vanni de Galermo being wholly diverted and extinguish'd. From this time till the 25th, the Mountain continued silent, but then it burst out again with more force than ever before, its noise much louder, like Peales of Ordnance, and so forcible and lasting, as for 24 hours it caus'd a shaking and trembling in our Buildings, the Air so filled with Smoak and Ashes, as darkned the Face of the Sky. The Birds and Fowl about this time, either through want of Food, or illness of Air, which was corrupted with the noisome smells arising from these Burnings, were observed to lye dead in all places.

On the 28th. the Grand Current was advanced near the City as far as the old *Capucins*. which struck so great a Terror into the People, that most of them left the City, only some Officers remaining with such persons as were under their command, who have secured and sent away the *Magazine* and all the Artillery from the Castle.

A Latter Relation from *Catania*, of April 27. gives this further Account, The dreadful Inundation from *Monte Gibello* having destroyed many Castles and Towns, with an infinite loss, and utter ruine to the Inhabitants, arrived lately with a renewed Force at *Mostor-bianco*, which it has wholly ruin'd, from thence passing on to *Albanelli*, in four days space destroyed all the Gardens and Vineyards with 63 Thousand Vines. On Wednesday April 16. With an Impetuous Fiery Torrent it came towards *Sardanello*, where all the remainder of the Inhabitants of this City were Spectators of it, which resembled a River of melted and burning Brass, about ten Ells wide, running with swiftness to the Arch of *Marcus Marcellus*, a famous Piece of Antiquity, and passing under it, ruin'd about 6 Ells of it, which was the breadth of the Current in that place: from thence it ran to *Madonna di Monferrato*, which it wholly destroyed: then falling down to *Madonna delle Gratie*, it entred in at one Gate, and passed through another, without any considerable hurt, and run-

running through the Gate *Della Decima*, filled all the Plain *Di Schiara Viva*, where it was above six Ells deep. Then taking its way towards the Bulwark, on the Sea-side, under the Castle of this City, it ran by, two Ells deep into the Sea; in which, (to the great wonder of all that saw it) it has made its Progress a mile in length, and as much in breadth, and is drawing towards the Gate of the Channel, which gives us great Apprehensions, least it may that way Invade the City it self: Nor is there less danger on the side *Del Tindaro*, where there runs a great Torrent of the same Active matter, which draws near, and seems to threaten the Walls, and is in that place about a mile in breadth, having overflowed and destroyed all the Gardens, from the Gate *Della Decima*, as far as *Madonna delli Amellati*.

The names of the most considerable Towns and places ruined and destroyed by the dreadful Earthquakes and Irruptions were, The Town of *Nicolosi*, wholly ruined; *Padara* and *Tre Castagne* the greatest part destroyed; The Towns of *La Guardia*, *Malpasso*, *Campo Rotundo*, *Potitelli*, *St. Antonino*, *St. Pietro*, *Mosterbiano*, *Montpilevi*, *La Annunciata*, *Falisch*, *Placchi*, all wholly overflowed consumed, and lost in this fiery Inundation with all the Lands belonging to them, no foot-steps of them remaining; The Towns of *Masculucia*, and *St. Giovanni de Galemo* ruined in part; The large Gardens and Vineyards of *Albanelli* overflowed and destroyed: The famous piece of Antiquity of *Marcus Marcellus*, much ruined; *Madonna de Monferrato* destroyed, besides many Castles, Farms, and other Places, which have run the same Fortune, whose names we for brevity pass over.

LXXX. West of the Isle of Sicily in the *Tuscan Sea*, within sight of *Messina*, and 150 miles distant from Mount *Aetna* are the *Æolian Islands*, so called from *Æolus* King thereof, who first taught the use of the Sail, and by observing the Fire and Smoke which ascended from these Islands, (for heretofore they all fla-

flamed) was from thence fabled to be the *God of the Winds*; These were anciently seven, but are now eleven Islands, of which *Liparis* is the greatest, being ten miles in circuit, the Fire went out here about an Age ago, So that at this day *Strombolo* only burns, (though another called *Vulcano* smoaks continually). It was formerly called *Strongile*, but by corruption *Strombolo* from the roundness thereof, for it seems like an high round Mountain in the Sea, out of the top whereof issueth continually a flame like a burning Beacon, and exceeding clear, so that by night especially it is to be discerned a wonderful way, A place so full of horror to the neighbouring Islanders, that the more ignorant *Papists* are made to believe it is the very Jaws of Hell itself; The asorenamed *Kircher* made Observations of this Mountain likewise, which he thus relates; That on a certain day viewing *Strombolo* very curiously, about threescore miles distant, he observed it to be more than ordinarily furious, for it appeared wholly overwhelmed with Fire in so great plenty, that it seemed to belch out flaming Mountains, a most horrendous Spectacle; And then, saith he, I heard a strange kind of dull murmur from the Mountain so far off, which seemed to come towards us under the Earth, till it reached the subterraneous place where we stood, and there uttered such horrible Thundrings within the Earth, with such formidable Earthquakes, that none of them were able to stand on their Feet; After the violence was over, getting up again with unspeakable Consternation, they beheld the destruction and lamentable subversion of the famous Town of *St. Euphemia* three miles off, which happened at that instant, the City being wholly swallowed up, for seeking for the Town, they found instead thereof, what is wonderful to be related, nothing but a dark stinking Lake sprung up in its place, they could find no men nor Inhabitants; Thence passing on their Journey, they found nothing else for Two Hundred miles, but the Carcases of Cities, horrid

rid ruines of Castles, Men stragling up and down in the open Fields, and through horror and famine pining and withering away.

LXXXI. In *April* 1669, The Mountain *Vesuvius* aforementioned cast up more smoak and Ashes than formerly, and for several Nights the neighbouring places were much affrighted with the great Flames which issued from it, accompanied with unusual noises; At the same time they write, That the Vice Roy of *Sicily* having compassion upon the miserable condition of above Thirty Thousand poor People, who by their Flight had saved themselves from the Fire of Mount *Aetna* aforementioned, which had destroyed 17 or 18 Towns or Villages, and by the dayly approaches to the City of *Catania*, seemed to threaten it with inevitable ruine, so that the Inhabitants were leaving the place; And that he thereupon sent one of his Officers to take order for the maintenance of those distressed Creatures, and disposing of them into places of safety; In the same Month 1669 in the night, there was a cry made in the Town of *Lichfield* in *England* of *Fire, Fire*, and the Bells rang out, which frightened many; This was occasioned (saith Mr. *Clark*) by the sight of a sheet of Fire, which hung over that City for the space of half an hour, and then disappeared, This saith he, *I had from one that lay in the Town that night*; Upon *July* 10. the same year at *Weymouth* in *Dorsetshire* between six and nine a Clock in the morning, the Sea was observed to ebb and flow 7 times, of which the greater notice was taken, because the weather at that time was fair and calm, and the Tydes very low, the like accident having never been observed there but once before about three years since; Upon *June* 20. this year at *Inspurg* in *Germany*, a little after noon, there was a very violent Tempest with extraordinary hail, rain, Thunder and Lightning, accompanied with an Earthquake, which had such terrible Effects at *Schnatz* a Town about 3 miles distant from *Inspurg*, where the Emperor of *Germany* had

278 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

had some Silver mines, that the River which runs through it overflowing, drowned all the adjacent Fields, driving down, and destroying above Thirty Houses, endamaging many more, and drowning above Two Hundred People; In *July 1669*, came Intelligence from *Holftein in Denmark* of Prodigious Tempests accompanied with such dreadful Thunder and Lightnings as affrighted the Cattel out of the Fields, and drove some Hundreds of them into the Sea, wherein they were all drowned; From *Mecklenburg* likewise in *Germany* they write, that there were several Fires kindled by Lightning in divers parts of the Country.

LXXXII. In 1672, His Majesty proclaimed War against the *States of the United Provinces*, and *May 28*. His Royal Highness engaged the whole *Dutch Fleet* in *Southwold Bay*; and after a sharp dispute of 8 hours, the *Hollanders* retreated, in which fight the Noble Earl of *Sandwich* was unfortunately slain; About this time there happened a violent Fire at *St. Katharines* without the *Iron-Gate* near the *Tower of London*, which consumed above an Hundred Houses; this year the *French* overrun great part of *Holland*, taking as it is said, Thirty Cities and Towns in Thirty days. In 1678, an horrid *Popish Plot* was discovered against His Majesties Person and Government, and soon after, *Sir Edmondbury Godfrey* (who took the first Examination of *Dr. Oats* upon the Discovery thereof,) was murdered by the Papists, for which three of them were executed. Several *Popish* Lords were committed to the Tower, and *December 1679*, the Lord *Stafford* was beheaded at *Tower-Hill* for High Treason, In 1620, *May 18*. about 2 a Clock in the morning there began a furious storm of Thunder and Lightning in *London*, so extream, that the Heavens seemed to be in a flame, which was accompanied with very large Hail, and extraordinary violent and hasty Showers of rain, which continued for several hours, but about 10 a Clock in the morning a strange and unusual darkness over-
spread

spread the face of Heaven, and immediately after there fell such a terrible storm of Hail, as the like was hardly ever seen in *England*, before the storm, a great murmuring or rattling noise was heard in the Air, the Hailstones were so very large, that some of them being measured, were found to be four Inches, others five, others six in compass, nay it was confidently reported, that some were seven, eight, and nine Inches about; it continued not above a quarter of an hour, otherwise it might have done much more damage than it did, yet abundance of Glass-Windows were shattered to pieces, especially of those called *Sky-Lights*, The stones were of different Shapes and Sizes, and the Fancies of People likened them to several things, they fell with such violence, that they cut the Faces of some, and the heads and hands of others, who were abroad, some others ran into the ground in the Fields above an Inch, and being taken out, were found to be as big as Pullets Eggs, and some larger, several of them were round, others square and flat, with very sharp Edges.

LXXXIII. Not long before this, in the same year 1680, there fell a mighty tempest of Rain, Hail, Lightning and Thunder at a Town in *Oxfordshire*, It began about eleven a Clock in the morning, the Sky being for a considerable time black and dark, when on a sudden there happened a great storm of Hail which by the assistance of an East-wind fell with such violence, that the Hail-stones rebounded 3 Foot high from the ground; after which followed a fierce shower of Rain, which seemed rather to come down in pailfuls, than in the common way; and so affrighted the Inhabitants that they ran immediately into the Fields to save their Sheep, Lambs, and other small Cattel, but had much ado to return with their Lives; during this dreadful storm, the Heavens sent forth such huge and frequent flashes of Fire, that notwithstanding that deluge of water, which at that instant fell from the Skyes, the Lightning took hold of some Houses, but

was happily quenched without any considerable damage, yet several Barns were burnt down, with all within them, in one of which a man that was thrashing, hardly made his escape; Among others a youth being overtaken in the storm, endeavoured to shelter himself in a Windmil, but the ill-natured Miller began to swear and curse at him, asking him, if he was such a Fool and changling to be afraid of a little Lightning and Thunder; the boy had scarce time to answer before he was struck off the stairs, and the Miller was forced to go down and take him up half dead; but this unkind Miller had hardly recovered the Youth, ere he himself was struck down with the Thunder, and taken up without any appearance of Life for the present, though it is said he afterward recovered.

LXXXIV. There is likewise a Relation of a strange Accident which happened this year 1680, at a Town called *Blois* in *France*, That about one a Clock in the morning an amazing Tempest of Wind arose with such violence, as soon affrighted the most sleepy from their repose, and in a short time by its fury beat or blew down all the Body of the Church of *St. Souldus*, except the Belfry; also half the *Jesuits* Church, and two fair houses into the Highstreet, the People whereof were glad to run into the arched Cellars to save themselves, which they happily did, for the ruins fell upon, and round about the Arch, but the Rubbish being removed, they were afterward drawn out alive, This Tempest was likewise accompanied with a most prodigious Hail, many Thousand stones being found as big as a mans Fist, which without sufficient Authority would seem incredible; This unusual Artillery of Heaven broke all the Slates wherewith the Houses are covered, and the Glass Windows all over the Town, as if they had been beaten in a Mortar; without the Town eight whole Parishes with the Fields adjacent were wholly ruined by the Hail in such a terrible manner, that it seemed as if no Corn had been

been sown, or Vines planted there ; There were four other Parishes much indamaged, and multitudes of Chimneys beaten down, so that the dammages thereby with the breaking of Windows and Tiles was valued to be above Two Hundred Thousand Crowns, and the harm in the Vineyards and Cornefields invaluable ; But it pleased God the *Protestant Church* in that Town was wonderfully preserved, though equally exposed to the Weather ; without a Slate or any glass broken, the direful marks of the Tempest being visible round about it ; The same Divine Providence was seen in that neither Man, Woman, nor Child were killed in this dreadful desolation : There likewise happened an unusual Accident upon a Ship riding at Sea, which being attacked by a furious Tempest, was in great danger of being cast away ; but on a sudden there broke so dreadful a clap of Thunder into the Ship, that they all imagined their Guns had been accidentally fired, and in a moment the main Mast was split in sunder from top to bottom, as you would split a rush ; the main top Mast was shivered into small Peices, and the Pendant at the head of it, was burned to Ashes ; the violence thereof was so great, that it beat down fourteen men upon the Deck, and had like to have thrown them into the Sea ; and those that were within Deck, were likewise thrown down, Five of them lay for dead a considerable time, no Pulse or Breath being perceived, their Eyes and Teeth immoveable, yet they had no visible hurt or wound, only an intolerable smell of Brimstone ; about half an hour after by rubbing, forcing open their Mouths, and powring down some Cordials, they all recovered, but seemed much disturbed in their Senses ; At the same time there were six others miserably burnt, their flesh being scorched, and yet their Garments not so much as singed, their skin was much discoloured, and lookt as if burnt by a Coal.

LXXXV. In *June* this year 1680, in *Pomerania* in *Germany*, great and dreadful streams of Fire were seen

in the Heavens for a very considerable time ; after which there seemed to be a terrible Fight between two Armies, and the noise of their shooting, and the fiery Bullets which seemed to fly in the Air caused great Consternation, they giving great Light into their Houses, for four mile round about ; Likewise at *Stralsund* in *Sweden* they saw dreadful Fires in the Heavens about the same time, and divers other unusual, and remarkable Flashes and Appearances, and particularly they saw the Form of a great Bullet flying through the Sky, which seemed to be as bright as the Moon, and from the Body thereof, there proceeded great streams of Fire, which represented the Forms of Snakes or Fiery Serpents, and several Suns were seen at once in the Firmament. In *December* 1680, a great Comet appeared in the South-west, at its first appearing there was seen an unusual and prodigious stream of Light arising out of the South-west, it seemed broadest at the Horizon, growing sharper upward by degrees, the Star from whence it proceeded was for some days not to be seen, but a while after it became visible, and the shape seemed altered, the stream being least and sharpest at the Star, and broader upward ; the Tail or Blaze of light altered, (as some Artists observed) turning every night more from the North to the East, like the hand of a Watch ; about the middle of *January* it quite disappeared. In *January* 1681. there were very lamentable Inundations of the Sea in *Holland*, *Zeland* and *Flanders*, the banks being broken down, and the Water running a vast way into the Countrey, drowning many Thousands of Cattel, and carrying away abundance of Hay and Corn, many Thousand Men, Women and Children likewise lost their Lives before they could fly for succor ; it rose so high, that nothing was to be seen for some time, but the tops of Steeples and Churches.

LXXXVI. In 1682, *April* 21, happened extraordinary Thunder and Lightning, and excessive Rains which did much damage in several Places about *London*,

don, and at *New-Brainford* it carryed away several houses, and filled the Cellars of many others with Water. *May 6.* a strange and wonderful Birth happened at *Ostend* in *Flanders*, where a Woman was delivered of two Female Children, which were joyned together by the Crown of the head; The Physitians consulted of parting them, but concluded it not to be done without danger; they seemed to be distinct in Life, Soul and Brains, from the several Actions they had, while one slept, the other waked and eat; the heads were so joyned, that when one turn'd it self, the neck of the other turn'd also; they lived for some time and were baptized, but dyed soon after. *May 12.* there was an Earthquake in *France*, which produced very terrible Effects, At *Metz*, the Watch-house of a Bulwark was thrown into the Ditch with a Souldier in it; At *Torons* the Houses and Churches were so dreadfully shaken therewith, as if several Coaches with six Horses had driven along full speed through the streets; it threw down divers Rocks on the side of *Bourbirant*; But at *Ravine* it was more astonishing, where a certain River near this place which fifty paces from its head turns a Gunpowder-Mill, was never known to cease running, yet in this extraordinary Earthquake it remained dry for half an hour, and then ran as before; The Powder Man surprized to see his Mill stop, upon searching found the Head or Fountain dried up; In *Provence* their Houses, Beds, Windows were shaken, and the Doors and Windows forced open, so that the Inhabitants were afraid to stay within; the Wine in several Cellars was disturbed, and the Domestick Animals as Sheep, Cows, Horses, and Poultry discovered their fear by unusual motions and cries; At *Dion* the day before, it was observed that the Shepherds in the Grounds about that Town were not able to stop their Flocks, nor hinder them from getting into their stalls at four a Clock in the Evening, though at this time a year they used not to go home till Sun-set; Yea, the Earth-

quake was so violent there, that several Women big with Child, came with the affright before their time, and that some of them lost their Lives; Several other Cities and Towns in *France* felt the Effects of it, but especially *Calice* and *Bulloign*, where divers Persons were killed or lamed by the ruins of the Buildings which fell down by the violent shakings thereof; there happened almost the same thing in a late Earthquake at *Remiremont*, and *Piombieres* in *France*; at *Remiremont* it threw down a Dozen Houses, and the Vaults of the chief Church fell down, two Maidens were killed, and the People ran for security into the Fields, the Destruction and loss occasioned thereby, (besides the lives of several Persons) is judged to amount to Five Hundred Thousand Livers; some years ago there was a mighty Earthquake in *France*, which moved and agitated the Waves of the Sea after such a manner, that though the Weather was fair and calm, and without any appearance of a storm, yet there were Thirty Vessels lost between *Dover* and *Calais*: Before this last Earthquake, they write from *Lyons*, *Geneva*, and other places, that there appeared Flames of Fire for four days upon a Mountain near *Geneva*.

LXXXVII. In 1682, *June 7*. The Ship called The *Jamaica Merchant*, being in the Gulph of *Florida* in the *West-Indies*, about 12 at Noon happened a mighty Showr, with such dreadful Thunder as was hardly ever before heard, which split the Mainmast, and threw the Men down flat on the Deck, setting Fire between the Decks in several places, which immediately burst forth into dreadful Flames, and with all their diligence could not be quenched, so that they were all forced to betake themselves to their Long-boat, and happily escaped to another *English* Ship, not far off. In the *Gazett* it is related, That the Letters from *Mosco* the chief City of *Russia*, of *July 25*. give an Account, That the late *Czar* or Emperor *Alexis*, who married with a *Polish* Lady, having by her means taken

taken a great Affection to the manners and customes of that Nation, and designed to introduce them among his own Subjects the more to civilize them, had thereby raised a great hatred in the *Boyers* or Nobility, and other great Men against him, who resolved to poyson him, and his Queen, and accordingly effected it by the means of a *Jew*; He had two Brothers, the eldest named *John* about 20 years old, who had the same Mother, and was born blind of one Eye, the other named *Peter*, about 9 years old, who was born of a second Marriage, and his Mother the Princess *Natalia* was living; The Emperor being dead in few hours, after suffering great Torments; The Chancellor of the Kingdom joyning with the Princess *Natalia*, and several *Boyers*, and other great Men, proclaimed the young Prince *Peter*, Emperor, and at the same time the Princess *Sophia* Sister to Prince *John*, General *Komanski* and many others espoused the cause of the Elder Brother, and drew the Guards and Soldiers to their side, by perswading them that the late *Czar* was poysoned, and that there was a design likewise to destroy them; whereupon the said Guards rose and fell upon the *Boyers*, and others who had proclaimed Prince *Peter*, and destroyed a great many of them; After which Prince *John* was proclaimed Emperor, but without deposing Prince *Peter*, so that there are now two Emperors, who were both Crowned *June 24.* last past; The Emperor *Alexis*, left a young Son, of whom it seems no notice was taken, he being yet in the Cradle; The two Emperors seem hitherto to agree very well, and things at present are very calm and quiet there.

LXXXVIII. In 1682. The *Gazett* of *July 31.* gives an Account, that on the sixth of that Month at *Torturica* a Town in *Sicily*, about seven a Clock in the Evening, after so great darkness that they could not discern each other four paces asunder, there arose a great storm of Rain, Lightning, and Thunder, which lasted 36 hours, that about one a Clock next morning, great

186 *The Surprizing Miracles of Nature*

Torrents of Water caused by these Rains, fell from the Mountains with so great violence, that they carryed with them Trees of an extraordinary bigness, which threw down the Wall and Houses of the Town they happened to beat against; The Waters were so furious that they overthrew the Church of *St. Nicholas*, and the Arch-Deacon of the Town who retired thither, perished there with many other Persons; There only remained one Abby, and about fifty Houses, and those so shattered, that they fell down soon after; about 600 of the Inhabitants were drowned, the rest being abroad in the Fields gathering their Silk, fled to the Mountains, where they suffered very much for want of Provisions; The Goods, Trees, Stones, Sand, and other Rubbish which the Waters carryed away were in so great abundance, that they made a Bank above the Water two miles in length, near the Mouth of the River where the Water before was very deep; several other Towns were likewise destroyed by this great Flood; It is added, that Mount *Atlas* cast forth such abundance of Water, that all the Neighbouring Countrey was drowned. They write likewise from *Rome* of *July 4*. That after having been two Moneths without Rain, it began to Rain on Sunday *June 25* at night, and that an hour before day there fell a Thunderbolt in the Popes Pallace of *St. Peter*, which ran through several Rooms, and broke down the Chimney-Piece of the Apartment of Cardinal *Cibo*.

LXXXIX. In the weekly Memorials published at *London*, we have the Extract of two Letters sent to the Publisher by *Richard Gips Esq;* from *Waltham-Hall* in *Suffolk*, dated the 22 and 29 of *July 1682*, concerning a growing peice of Wood, to this Effect; Sir, *Myself, and many hundreds of Ingenious Men have seen at St. Edmundsbury in Suffolk, a growing peice of Wood, it was of an Elm-Tree sawn in the middle, as I conceive, and I guess it to be of a very great Age; As soon as a hot Iron was put on this Wood, it groaned like a dying man. so that*

that it might be heard a great way; It was very surprizing to me when I heard it, for I could not be perswaded to believe any such thing; The Wood was very firm on one side of it, knotty and crackt in some places, nor would it groan when the Iron was put twice in the same place, but it would at some little distance from it; At the time when the hot Iron was put upon it, I layd my hand nigh the Iron, and perceived something gather to the Iron before the Wood groaned, the groan was no longer than that of a dying Man; This Wood was first discovered by a little Girl, who playing with the Fire, by accident scattered a Coal on this Board which lay very nigh the Fire, and it groaned so extraordinarily, that it frightened the Child. The second Letter was thus, Sir, since my last to you, the Groaning Plank is removed from Bury, but being informed of another Groaning Plank, I this day went to see it, and was much more surprized at it, than at the former, the groaning being much more audible than the other; This piece of Wood was Witch-Elm, as the other also was, though much less and thinner, it was about an Inch or two in thickness, a yard and an half in length, and 3 Foot broad, It was an old and firm piece of Wood as the former; Sir, if you see any Witch-Elm that is very old, you may assure yourself, that if you burn it with a very hot Iron, it will groan extraordinarily, I discoursed with a very ingenious Gentleman, who thinks it is occasioned by reason of some Glutinous matter which is included in that sort of Wood, so that when the Fire comes it ravishes it, and occasions that noise; but in regard I could not perceive any Glutinous matter, but on the contrary that it was extraordinarily dry, I could hardly acquiesce in his Opinion.

XC. In 1682. August 14. Another Comet or Blazing Star was visible in London, at nine a Clock at night about North and by West from that City; Its head was large, much like the Star *Venus* at the height, it was seen several Nights after, and having about 30 Degrees of North Latitude it did never set; having continued for some time, it disappeared; Aug. 25. the *Gazett* informs us from *Naples*, that the Mountain *Vesuvius* did cast out Fire accompanied with a most ter-

rible and hideous noise, which from an hour after Sunſet on Saturday, till 2 a Clock next morning was ſo great, that it cauſed a kind of Earthquake, the houſes in that City being plainly obſerved to ſhake ; The Mountain likewiſe caſt out Aſhes in great abundance, which were diſperſed many miles by the wind, and the Sunday after, all the Streets of *Naples* were covered with them, as if it had been a deep Snow, Theſe Prodigies very much terrified the people, and Publick Prayers were made for appeaſing the Wrath of Heaven ; It is added, That many great Coals of Fire fell alſo, the dread whereof wrought ſo much upon the Inhabitants, that they removed to other Cities ; That the terrible Earthquakes have thrown down near Three Thouſand Buildings all about the foot of the Mountain, and that it roared ſo loud as to be heard 40 miles diſtance in a ſtill night. It is written from *Florence* in *Italy* in the *Gazete* of *Sept. 29.* That a few days before there happened one night ſuch a terrible Tempeſt of Wind, Rain, Hail, and Thunder, about 18 miles from that City upon the Mountains of *Bologna*, that for eight miles in length, and two in breadth, it ſwept away all the Branches from the greateſt Trees, as Oaks, Cheſnuts and Olives, and much more from the ſmaller Fruit-Trees ; It deſtroyed all the *Autumn* Harveſt that was upon the ground, and left not a Vine ſtanding, it carryed away all the Roofs and coverings off from the Countrey-mens Houſes, and ſome were quite beaten down to the ground, and ſeveral people killed in their Beds, A Church and Steeple were quite ruined, and the Bells carryed above a quarter of a mile ; Many Wild Beaſts and Fowl, as Deer, Hares, Foxes, Partridges, and ſmall Birds were found dead, and if it had happened in the day as it did in the night, much Cattel, and many people muſt needs have periſhed, for the Hailſtones were found to be from Three to Five Pounds in weight, the like not known in theſe parts, and the loſs is eſteemed the greater, becauſe not

tobe redeemed in seven years time.

XCI. In 1682. Oct. 5. A strange Monster was born at *Exeter* in *Devonshire*, having two perfect heads, one standing right as it should, the other being in the right Shoulder, with Eyes, Nose, Ears, Mouth, and Tongue to each head proper, it had but two Arms and Hands, and two Legs and Feet, all in good, and comely shapes, they which were at the delivery say, that they were two as handosome Faces as ever they saw, it was living when born, but soon expired, only giving one sigh at its departure; It was soon buried, but after taken up again, and exposed to the view of numerous Spectators, to the great advantage of the Parents.

Thus have I briefly run over abundance of *Strange Prodigies, Apparitions, and Accidents* which have happened in the Heavens, Earth and Sea in several Countreys for near Seventeen Hundred years past, but as to the Application of the Effects of divers of them to particular Persons or Places I have barely collected most of them from that noted Astrologer Mr. *John Gadbury* in his *Treatise of Prodigies*, and his *Discourse of the three Comets* in 1664, and 1665. Though, as an Ingenious Gentleman lately observes, there may be much doubt and question whether there be any great certainty in these Predictions, since they have been judged sometimes to portend evil as well as good, for as he says, Though that Comet which some interpreted to presage *Luthers* preaching against Indulgences, and the Reformation which followed, bespoke evil it may be to the Popes Kitchen, yet it was certainly the dawning of the Blessed Light of the Gospel to the *Western Parts* of Christendom; But however, (as he adds) if the terror and rareness of these Prodigies do upon any Account whatsoever mind us of our Mortality, and prepare us for our end (as it hath effected upon some in former Ages) or to reflect upon our own, or the publick Crimes, which may call down Gods vengeance upon us, and to implore his mercy and forgiveness

bearance toward us, it may be very useful and profitable, for sure it is, this Age has need enough of Repentance, and without a Comet, we want not abundant Notices and Warnings that if we do not forsake our horrid enormities, we cannot long escape the signal vengeance of Heaven. But, faith he, the making use of them, thereby to read the destiny of *Kings, Nations and Governments* is *Irrational, Fantastical, and Heathenish*, unbecoming either a *Man*, or a *Christian*, and therefore instead of any dreadful Prefages, The Blessing of the Almighty be upon the whole *Israel* of God, *Amen*.

I cannot better conclude this Subject than by inserting the following Letter, written by a famous Prelate of our Church, inferior to no man of this Age, either for Piety or Learning, wherein he declares his thoughts concerning the Comet in *August* last, 1682, which seems fully to comorize all that can be said by the wisest of Mortals concerning Comets. The Letter is as followeth.

My good Friend, It seems your Philomathematici (as your Almanack-makers usually stile themselves) and Astrologers in London have not yet declared their Judgment concerning the New Comet; yet I shall tell you mine, though (may be) it may signify as little as theirs when they do declare it. 1. Then (in the General) It has been the opinion of Learned Pagans and Christians, that all Comets portend some Calamities to come upon some Nations, Countreys, Cities, or particular Persons; The Greeks use to say, All Comets are fore-runners of some Calamities; And a Latin Poet and a Pagan could say, Nunquam furilibus excaudit ignibus Acher. 2. But in particular, I believe (and I think there is good reason for it) there are three things concerning Comets which may, and other three things which neither are, nor certainly can be known; For instance, 1. Their Motion 2. Their Magnitude. 3. Their Altitude (whether above or below the Planets) may by the Parallax, and a good Mathematician be certainly known; But then there are other three things which the best Mathematicians neither do,
nor

nor certainly can know ; For Instance. 1. *Their Generation*, how they are produced, and of what matter they are made ; 2. *Their Signification*, what it is which they do particularly portend, and to what Countrey, City or Person it relates. 3. *Their Exit and vanishing*, how they come to disappear, and what becomes of them afterward ; These things none of your Astrologers and Star-gazers do, or (by any ground in Nature or Scripture, Reason or Revelation) can certainly know ; They may guess, and so may you and I, and it may be as well as they, but 'tis only Conjecture, not Science, they having no ground from which they can certainly conclude their Conjectures to be true ; Nay I do confidently and truly add, (and there is evident Reason for it) that neither the Pope, notwithstanding his Infallibility, nor the Devil notwithstanding all his Subtilty, can certainly know what any Comet does particularly portend, unless it please God, who only knows to discover and reveal it to them.

F I N I S.



*The Surprizing Miracles of
Art, or an Account of the
most Magnificent Build-
ings, and Curious Inven-
tions and Rarities in all
Ages.*

Part II.

HAVING related a multitude of *Miracles* and *Prodigies of Nature*. I shall now proceed to those of Art; The *Chinsees* look upon themselves as the wisest People upon the face of the Earth, they use therefore to say, *That they see with both Eyes, and all other Nations but with one only*, and thereupon they boast, though I know not with what Truth and Justice that the most famous Inventions which have been so lately known to us in *Europe*, have been no Strangers to them for many Ages past; however I shall relate what

what are most observable both in these and other Nations. It is likewise recorded, that *Augustus Cesar* having several ways adorned and fortified the City of *Rome*, putting it into a condition of bravery and security for after times, he thereupon gloried, *That he found Rome of brick, and left it of Marble*; and certainly nothing makes more for the just Glory of a Prince than to leave his Dominions in better State than he found them; Yet the vast Expences of some Princes and People had been more truly commendable, and their mighty works more really glorious, had they therein consulted more of the Publick good, and less of their own Ostentation; However it may not be unpleasant, nor unprofitable to describe them, and likewise to relate the most curious Inventions and Rarities in all Ages even to these times, which have been more favourable to Learning than the former, and wherein Arts have been thereby improved to the height;

1. But first concerning Buildings, the most famous structure we first read of, was immediately after the Universal Deluge, or *Noah's Flood*, for *Nimrod* the Son of *Chus*, the Son of *Cham*, perswaded the People to secure themselves from the like after-claps by building some stupendious Edifice, which might resist the fury of a second Deluge; This Counsel was generally imbraced; *Heber* only and his Family (as the Tradition goes) contradicting such an unlawful attempt; But the major part prevailing, the Tower of *Babel* began to rear its Head of Majesty Five Thousand One Hundred Forty six Paces from the Ground, having its *Basis* and circumference equal to its height: The Passage to go up went winding about the outside, and was of an exceeding great breadth, there being not only room for Horses, Carts, and the likemeans of Carriage to meet and turn, but lodgings also for Man and Beast; And (as *Verstegan* reports) Grass and Corn-fields for their nourishment; and admirable it is to consider, what multitudes of men there were in the world

194 *The Surprizing Miracles of Art*

World in so short a space, there being but eight persons that came out of the Ark, and now this Building was carried on by Five Hundred Thousand Men, the Foundation of it was nine miles compass; But God by the Confusion of Tongues hindred the Proceeding of this Building, one not being able to understand what his Fellow called for; which *Du Bartas* wittily describes.

*Bring me (quoth one) a Trowel quickly quick,
One brings him up a Hammer, bewt his brick,
Another bids, and then they cleave a Tree,
Make fast this Rope, and then they let it flee,
One calls for Planks, Another Morter lacks,
They bring the first a Stone, the last an Ax,
One would have Nails, and him a Spade they give
Another asks a Saw, and gets a Sieve:
Thus crossly cross, they prate and rail in vain,
What one hath made, another spoils again,
This makes them leave their work, and like mad Fools
Scatter their Stuff, and tumble down their Tools.*

II. We read in several Ancient Histories of *The seven Marvels, or Wonders of the World*, The first whereof they reckoned to be *The Walls of Babylon*; This City of Babylon was seated on the Banks of the River *Euphrates*, which ran through the midst of it, over which *Semiramis* built a strong and stately Bridge of a mile long, binding each stone together with clips of Iron fastened with melted Lead, and is the ancientest City of the World, first built by *Nimrod* in the place appointed for the raising of the Tower of *Babel*, and by him made the Imperial Seat of the *Chaldean* Kings, afterward much beautified and enlarged by *Semiramis* the Wife of *Ninus*, one of his Successors, and finally much increased both in bulk and beauty by *Nebuchadnezzar*, for he added a new City to the old, which he compassed about with three Walls; and made therein three stately Gates, and near his Fa-
thers

Fathers Palace, he built another more stately, where he raised Stone Works like mountains which he planted with all manner of Trees. He made also *Pensile* Gardens hanging as it were in the Sky, borne upon Arches four-square, each square containing four hundred foot, filled above with Earth, wherein grew all sorts of Trees and Plants; The Arches were built one upon another, even to fifty Cubits high; He likewise made Aqueducts for watering these Gardens; He erected an Image of Gold in the Plain of *Dura* sixty Cubits high, and six broad; These stately Buildings puffed him up, who therefore arrogated to himself the whole Glory of them, saying in his Pride, *Is not this the great Babel that I have built, a City of great Fame and State; The compass of the Walls were 363 Furlongs, or forty six, (some say threescore) miles, according to the number of the days of the year, in height two hundred Cubits, and fifty Cubits in breadth, that six Chariots or Carriages might meet on the top, they were finished in one year by the hands of Two Hundred Thousand Workmen; The City was four-square, and fifteen miles from one corner to another; Inso-much that Aristotle saith, It ought rather to be called a Country than a City, adding withal, That when the Town was taken, it was three days before the furthest parts of the Town had any Intelligence thereof; which taking of the Town must be understood of the surprize thereof by the Medes and Persians, in the Reign of Belshazzar, when Daniel the Prophet interpreted to that King the words Mene, Tekel, Peres, which were miraculously written by a hand upon the Wall as he was banqueting with his Nobility, and foretold the very day before it was taken that God had given his Kingdom to the Medes and Persians; All which was accomplished the night following, when Darius King of Media and Persia besieging Babylon, took it on a sudden with the help of his Nephew Cyrus the Persian in the time of a great Feast, when the King, Nobility, and People contemning their Enemies being over-confident of their*

their own strength, minded only their Sports and Pastimes; which we read was surprized after this manner; The River *Euphrates* ran quite through the Town, round about whose banks the politick *Cyrus* cut many and deep Channels, into which he in a very short time drained and emptied the River, conveying his own Forces into the Town all along the dry and yeilding Channel, and in a little time made himself Master of it, the *Babylonians* being drowned in Wine and Debauchery; In the Reign of Queen *Semiramis* this City revolted from her, and the news thereof coming to her as she was ordering her hair, she thereupon leaving her head half drest, went out besieged it, never ordering the rest of her hair till she had recovered it; Of this great Lady it is recorded, That she was born in *Ascalon* a Town of *Syria*, and exposed to the fury of Wild Beasts, but being born not to dye so ingloriously, she was brought up by Shepherds, and at full Age presented to the *Syrian* Vice Roy, who gave her in marriage to his only Son; going with him to the Wars, she fell into acquaintance with King *Ninus*, who liking her Person and Spirit, took her to his bed; This bred in him a greater Affection to her, so that he granted her at her request the command of the Empire for 5 days, making a Decree that her Will in all things should be punctually performed, which boon being gotten, she put on the Royal Robes, and (as some writers report) commanded the King to be slain; Having thus gotten the Empire, she exceedingly enlarged it, leading her Army consisting of one hundred Thousand Chariots of War, three Millions of Foot, and half a Million of Horse; A Woman worthy of Honour and Applause but only for her insatiable Lusts, of which the *Greek* Writers charge her to be very guilty. This Queen *Semiramis* caused an huge *Obelisk* or *Pyramid* to be cut out of the *Armenian* Mountains, all of one entire stone, one hundred and fifty foot long, and twenty four foot thick, which was foursquare, and was brought with much

much difficulty to the River *Euphrates*, and from thence to *Babylon*, where he erected it to be a matter of admiration to future Ages. *Babylon* likewise revolted from the *Persians* in the Reign of *Darius Hystaspes*, and that Victuals might not be wanting for the Men of War, they strangled the most part of the Women, they being then it seems not accounted to be necessary Evils; when they had for 20 Months obstinately defended the Town, that the *Persians* had very little hope of prevailing, *Zopyrus* one of *Darius* Captains mangling his body, and disfiguring his face by cutting off his own Ears and Nose, fled to the *Babylonians* complaining of the Tyranny of the King, as if he had been thus cruel to him; The *Babylonians* believing his Words, and knowing his Courage, committed the charge of the whole Army to him, as a man to whom such barbarous usage had made the King irreconcilable; But he taking the best Opportunity, delivered both the Town and Souldiers into the hands of his Sovereign, which made *Darius* often say, *That he had rather have one Zopyrus, than Twenty Babylonians*; Here dyed *Alexander* the Great, after whose Death the *Grecian* Captains regardful rather of their own Ambition than the Common Loyalty, divided the Empire amongst themselves, leaving the body of the King eight days unburied; A wonderful change of Fortune, that he who living thought the World too small for his valour, being dead should find no place big enough for his Body: The Walls of this City were built of Stone, and wonderful high, strongly joyned together with Lime and Ciment growing in the Mines of that Countrey, but especially in the great Lake of *Asphaltites* in *Judea*, where sometime *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* stood; within the Town were a great number of Marble Temples and Golden Images, whole Streets shining and glittering with Gold, and precious Stones; And among other Temples there was one of *Belus* built by *Semiramis*, and dedicated to *Cush*, or *Jupiter Belus* foursquare, each side contain-

ing

ing two Furlongs, or a Thousand Paces, with thick Towering Walls, and entered by four Gates of polished Brass; In the midst thereof there was a Tower sometimes reckoned one of the *Worlds Wonders*, it had an hundred Brazen Gates, and two Hundred and Fifty Towers; and was half a quarter of a mile both in height and breadth, upon which were raised eight other Towers one above another, with ease stairs to ascend up to the top; where there was a Chappel with a sumptuous Bed, and a Table of Gold. In the top of this Chappel were placed three Golden Statues, one of *Jupiter* 40 foot long, weighing a Thousand Talents, each Talent containing 63 pounds 10 Ounces; Another Image of *Ops* weighing as much, sitting in a Golden Throne, at her Feet were two Lyons, and hard by divers huge Serpents of Silver, each weighing Thirty Talents; The third Image was of *Juno* standing, in weight eight hundred Talents, to all which was added a Common Table of Gold, forty foot long, and twelve broad, weighing 50 Talents; There were also two standing Cups of 30 Talents; and 2 Vessels for perfumes of the like weight; Besides 3 other Vessels of Gold weighing twelve hundred Talents; All which the *Persian* Kings after the Conquest of it took away; Finally such wonderful things are written by credible Authors of Artificial Mountains, Orchards, and Gardens hanging in the Air, that they seem almost incredible; All which demonstrates the wonderful Wealth and Glory of those Monarchs in that time; But after the taking of it by the *Macedonians*, the grandeur and magnificence thereof began to decline, lessening a fourth part in the time of *Quintus Curtius*, and was reduced to Desolation in the days of *Pliny*, and in the Reign of the Emperor *Adrian*, there was nothing left of *Babylon* but a poor Wall, which served for a Park for Wild Beasts, in which the Kings of *Persia* used to hunt, and those who have lately travelled thither, relate it is now so full of Lyons and
Savage

Savage Beasts, yea, and of Robbers, and Murtherers, that Passengers are forced to have Souldiers to Guard them, from whence we may by the way observe the exact accomplishment of the Prophecy of *Jeremiah. ch. 51.* concerning this City, *A drought is upon her Waters, and I will dry up her Sea, and make her Springs dry, and Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for Dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing without an Inhabitant; The Wild Beasts of the Desert, with the Wild Beasts of the Islands shall dwell there, and the Owl shall dwell there, and it shall be no more inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from Generation to Generation, and the Land shall be Desert and Dry.* And it is certainly reported by Travellers that there is not now any Town or Village near that once famous City, nor so much as a Tree or green Herb in all that Territory, but all is become a sandy Desert; For *Bagdat* which is now called *New Babylon*, is a days Journey from the place where the old City stood, and this barrenness is wonderful, considering the admirable fruitfulness thereof in times past, which *Pliny* saith, was the most fruitful Countrey of all the East, and that the ground usually yielded two hundred, and some years Three Hundred for one. *Treasure of Time, Vol. 1.*

III. The *Second Wonder of the World* is reckoned to be, *The Colossus of the Sun*, which was at *Rhodes*; It was the Statue or Figure of a man, dedicated by the Gentiles to the Sun, and some say to *Jupiter*, it was composed of Brass, of an incredible bigness, and in height like a mighty Tower, so that it can hardly be imagined how it was raised, and made in that manner, *Pliny* saith, it contained threescore and Ten Cubits in height, and that it was twelve years before it was made, though many able Workmen continually wrought about it, and that it cost Three Hundred Talents, This Statue was so immeasurably great, that it seemed as if the Earth could no longer sustain it, so that what was twelve years in making, having stood

stood sixty six years was pulled down in an instant by an Earthquake; After this fall, which was in the time of *Pliny*, many went to see, and wonder at it, for saith he, there were few men who could imbrace one of its Fingers, the least of which was greater than any other man whatsoever; standing with his two Legs striding over an Haven; between the Legs whereof Ships might pass with their Masts and Sails up; This wonderful *Colossus* lay there ruined for a very long time, the *Rhodians* being forbid by an Oracle to erect it again, or possibly pretending such an Oracle to save that charge, yet they held the Brass and the other Materials thereof almost sacred, which none ventured to meddle with till *Murcius* the *Aegyptian* General in the year 600, finding in himself no such scruple of Conscience, made a Prey thereof, for after he had overcome *Constance* the Emperor in a Sea-fight, and had conquered the *Isle of Rhodes*, he sold this Image as it lay on the ground to a Jew who loaded nine hundred Camels with the Brass thereof. *Treasury of Time*. Vol. 2.

IV. The Third Wonder of the World, Historians have recorded to be *The Pyramids of Egypt*, and if all be certain which they have written of them, they are truly admirable, they were vast and stupendious Structures, many in number, three most celebrated, and one the principal of all, situate on the South of the City of *Memphis*, and on the Western Banks of *Nilus*, they ended in a sharp point like a flame of fire, from whence they had their name; It is related that for erecting them there were three hundred and three-score Thousand men employed for Twenty years together; They were built by the vanity of the *Aegyptian* Kings, and used for their Sepulchres when dead, yet many times only to keep their Subjects in employment, and upon these it is thought the *Israelites* were employed by *Pharaoh*, when they cryed to the Lord, and he delivered them by the hand of *Moses*; The largest, and chief of the *Worlds seven Wonders*, is situate

uate most part of it on the top of a Rocky hill, which riseth an hundred Foot above the Plain, with a gentle and easie ascent, the height of the Scituation, adding to the Beauty of the Work, and the Rock to the Strength thereof; It was built for the Sepulcher of *Cheops* an *Aegyptian* King; Each side of this *Pyramid* is six hundred ninety three Foot according to *English* measure, so that the whole Circumference of the *Basis* and Foundation contains four hundred eighty thousand two hundred and forty nine Square Feet. or eleven *English* Acres of ground, the height and breadth are both the same, that is, six hundred ninety three foot; The Ascent to the top is contrived in this manner, From all the sides without, the Ascent is by degrees, the lowermost step is about four foot high, and three in breadth, which running about the *Pyramid* in a level, makes on every side of it a long, but narrow walk; The second now is like the first, retiring inward from the first three feet. and so runs about the *Pyramid*; In the same manner is the third Row placed above the second, and so in order the rest, like so many stairs rising one above another to the top, which is about nine foot square, consisting of three Stones only, yet large enough for threescore men to stand upon; No Stone in the whole Building being so little as to be drawn by any of our Carriages, yet were brought thither from the *Arabian* Mountains, but how brought, and by what Engine mounted is an equal wonder.

The Degrees by which men ascend, are not all of an equal depth, for some are about four foot, others scarcely three, and the higher they ascend, the more they diminish both in breadth and thickness; These are all made of massy and polished Stones, the breadth of every step being one single and intire Stone, containing thirty foot of stone, the number of these steps is two hundred and seven; On the North-side ascending 33 feet upon an Artificial Bank of Earth, there is a square and narrow Passage leading into the inside

of this *Pyramid*, containing in length ninety two feet and an half; The Structure of it hath been the labour of an exquisite hand, as appears by the smoothness and evenest of the work, and by the close knitting of the joints; It is now an habitation for great ugly Batts of about a foot long; At the end of this entrance, you must climb up a massy stone eight or nine foot in height, where you enter into a Gallery, the pavement whereof is of smooth and polished white Marble; the breadth is above five foot, and the height the like, the length of this Gallery is one hundred and ten foot; At the end of this, begins a second Gallery, a very stately piece of work, not inferior in Curiosity of Art, or richness of Materials to the most sumptuous Buildings. It is divided from the former by a Wall, at the end whereof is a Well about three foot over, the sides of which are lined with white Marble; it is eighty six Cubits in depth, hewn through the Rock where the *Pyramid* stands; About 15 foot thence, is a square Passage of mighty Stones, exquisitely joined, containing one hundred and 10 foot, at the end of which is an Arched Vault, or little Chamber, the length about twenty foot, and breadth seventeen; The length of this second Gallery is 154 feet of white and polished marble, both roof, Walls and bottom, and on each side benches of the same.

At the end of this Gallery you enter into a square hole, which brings you in a little room lined with rich and speckled *Theban* Marble, out of which through another Passage of the same stone most curiously cut, you come to the North end of a very sumptuous and well proportioned Room, wherein Art seems to contend with Nature, the curious work not being inferior to the Rich Materials; It stands in the heart or center of the *Pyramid*, the floors, sides, and roof all of excellent *Theban* Marble; The Stones which cover this room are of a strange stupendious length, like so many huge beams lying flat cross the room, and bearing up that almost infinite weight, and Mass of the *Pyramids*

mid above; Of these, there are nine which cover the Roof, the length of the Room is 34 *English* feet, the breadth 17, and the height 19 feet; In the midst of this glorious room, stands the Tomb of *Cheops* aforementioned, of one piece of Marble, hollow within, and sounding like a Bell, but empty; For, saith *Diodorus*, although the *Egyptian* Kings intended these for their Sepulchres, yet it happened that they were not buried therein, For the People being enraged against them for the slavery and toilsomness of the work, and for their Cruelty and oppression, they threatened to tear in peices their dead Bodies, and with scorn and ignominy to throw them out of their Sepulchres; whereupon these Princes commanded their Friends that when they were dead they should bury them in some obscure place.

The Tomb is cut smooth and plain, withour any sculpture or ingraving; The outsidies contain in length 7 Foot, 3 Inches and half; in depth 3 foot, 4 Inches, and the same breadth, the hollow part within is about six foot long, the depth two foot, whereby it appears that mens bodies are as big now as they were Three Thousand year ago, for it is near so long since this Tomb was made; The charge whereof was so great, that though the workmen had no other Food but Garlick, Radishes and Onions, yet it cost that King eighteen Hundred Talents. Some with great labor and pains have climbed to the top of this Pyramid, but being above, they have seemed as it were to lose their sight by looking down, judging themselves to be above the clouds, whereby their Brains were much troubled; Next to this in bulk and beauty, is said to be the Pyramid of a Daughter of *Cheops*, who, as Authors report, to finish her Fathers undertaking, and raise her own to the height, prostituted her body to all Comers, requiring but one stone toward the work from each one of her Customers; *Treasury of Time.*

Not far from this Pyramid are the *Egyptian Monu-*
K *mies,*

mies, which are the Graves of the ancient *Egyptians*, into which are descents like the narrow mouths of Wells, some near Ten Fathoms deep, leading into long Vaults hewn out of the Rock with Pillars of the same ; Between every Arch lyethe Corps, ranked one by another of all sides, which are innumerable, shrouded in a number of Folds of Linnen, and swathed with Bands of the same, the breasts of many being marked with strange *Hieroglyphick* Characters ; The Linnen being pull'd off, the bodies appear solid, uncorrupt, and perfect in all their dimensions ; To keep theie from Putrefaction, they draw the Brains out at the Nostrils with an Iron Instrument, filling the head with preservative spices, then cutting up the Belly with an *Ethiopian* Stone they take forth the Bowels, cleanse the inside with wine, and so stuffing it with a composition of *Myrrhe*, *Cassia*, and other odours, they closed it up again ; The same the poorer sort effected with *Bitumen*, fetched from the *Lake of Sodom*, whereby they have been preserved to this day having lain there for above Three Thousand years. *Clarks Mirrors*, First Part.

On the Bank of the River *Nilus* stood that famous *Labyrinth*, built by *Psammiticus* King of *Egypt*, situate on the South side of the *Pyramids*, and North of *Arsinoe* ; It contained within the compass of one continued Wall a Thousand Houses, (*Herodotus* says, three Thousand five hundred) and twelve Royal Palaces all covered with Marble, and had one only entrance, but innumerable turnings and returnings, sometimes one over another, and all very difficult to such as were not acquainted with them. The Building was more under ground than above, the Marblestones being laid with such Art that neither wood nor cement was employed in any part of the Fabrick ; The chambers were so ordered that the doors upon there opening gave a Report no less terrible than a crack of Thunder ; The chief entrance was all of white Marble, adorned with stately Columns, and most curious Imagery ;

gery ; Having got to the end of it, a pair of stairs of ninety steps conducted into a gallant Porch or Portico, supported with Pillars of *Theban* Marble, which was the entrance into a fair, and stately Hall, the place of the *General Convention*, or meeting of the Nobles of the Kingdom, all of polished marble, set out with the Statues of their Gods ; A work which afterward was imitated by *Dedalus* in the *Cretan Labyrinth*, though it fell as short of the Glories of this as *Minos* the King who was at the charge thereof, was inferiour to *Psammiticus* in power and Riches. *Heylins Cosmography*.

The *Lake of Meris* was likewise a most admirable work, undertaken and finished by *Meris* one of the *Egyptian* Kings, which for greatness and colour is like the Sea ; It is about six hundred furlongs from the City of *Memphis*, the circumference thereof containing some hundreds of furlongs, the depth fifty fathom or three hundred feet, many Millions of men were employed several years about it, the benefit of it to the *Egyptians*, and the wisdom of that King cannot be sufficiently commended, for since the rising of the River *Nilus* is not alwayes alike, and the Countrey is more fruitful by the moderateness thereof ; He digged this Lake to receive the superfluity of the waters, that neither by the greatness of the Inundation, it should cause Marishes, or by the scarcity of water the Earth should not yield her strength ; he therefore cut a ditch from the River to this Lake fourscore furlongs long, and three hundred feet in breadth, by which sometimes receiving in, and sometimes diverting the River, he gave at his pleasure a sufficient quantity of water to the Husbandmen ; In the midst of this Lake, King *Meris* built a Sepulcher, and 2 Pyramids, each of them an hundred fathoms high, placing upon them two Marble Statues, sitting on a Throne ; one representing himself, the other his wife, designing hereby to make his Memory Immortal ; The

Revenues which rise by the Fish of this Lake, he gave to his wife to buy sweet Ointments, Ornaments and Jewels, which was so great that it amounted to above a Thousand pound a day; For it was mightily replenished with Fish of Twenty sorts, so that very many were continually employed in catching, and salting of them. *Diodorus Siculus Hist.*

5. The Fourth Marvel or *Wonder of the World* was the Tomb of *Mausolus* King of *Caria*, a Province in the Greater *Asia*, built by his Queen *Artemisia*, who as Historians report, so dearly affected her husband, that she is by many recorded as an absolute pattern of Conjugal Affection; After his death she lamented his loss with extraordinary Sorrow and Complaints, and resolved to erect a Tomb or Sepulcher for him answerable to the extream Love she had for him, and such indeed it proved to be being accounted for rare workmanship, and costly magnificence one of the Worlds Wonders; The Stone of the whole Structure was of most curious Marble, four hundred and eleven foot in Circuit, and 25 Cubits high, supported with Thirty gallant Pillars, excellently ingraven; This building was open on all sides, with Arches 73 foot wide, framed by the most exquisite workmen of that Age, and the perfection of the work was so admirable, that ever after all sumptuous and beautiful Tombs were called *Mausolea*, of which *Martial* thus writeth,

*Mausolus Tomb which hangeth in the skie
The Men of Caria's Praises Deifie.*

It is recorded, that *Artemisia* after the death of her Husband lived in continual Tears and mourning, and that she died before the Work could be fully finished, having drunk the bones of her Husband beaten into Powder, which she buried in her own body, as the choicest Sepulchre she could provide for him.

6. The Fifth *Wonder of the World* was, The Temple of
Diana

Diana at Ephesus in Ionia a Province of Asia. *Pliny* saith it was built by the *Amazons*, and contained four hundred Twenty five foot in length, and two hundred and Twenty in breadth, so artificially contrived that it was two hundred and Twenty years in finishing; It was founded in a Lake, to prevent the danger of Earthquakes; and it is said, that a great quantity of Coal-dust and Wool were laid under the Foundation to secure the moist places; It had one hundred and Twenty seven Pillars of Marble seventy foot in height, of which Twenty seven were most curiously ingraven, and all the rest of Marble polished each of these Pillars were erected at the charge of so many Kings of *Asia*; The doors of the Temple were of Cypress, which after four hundred years were as fresh as if they had been new made; The roof was of *Cedar*; The Image of *Diana*, which the superstitious vulgar were made to believe came down from *Jupiter* out of Heaven, was made by one *Camestia*, some say of Ebony; others of the Vine, which having many holes was filled up with *Spikenard*, the moisture whereof closed up the rifts; It was adorned with rich and unvaluable Gifts, It was contrived by *Cresiphon*, and after it was finished was fired seven times; But last of all by *Erostratus*, who observing the Sovereign Magnificence thereof, was resolved to burn it to get himself a Name; which he did accordingly, but to disappoint him, the Princes of those Countreys (as some Authors affirm) forbid that any man should speak, write, or record his name, yet all this was to no purpose, for latter Historians name him, and call him *Erostratus*; This glorious Temple was burnt the same night that *Alexander the Great* was born, which gave occasion to that witty scoff, That *Diana* (who was counted one of the Goddesses of Midwifry) could not attend the Preservation of her Temple, being then busied at the birth of so great a Prince; Some write, that this Temple was afterward rebuilt, much more sumptuous and magnificent than before, and that the Master of the work was named *Democritus*.

7. The sixth Wonder of the World, was the Idol or Image of *Jupiter Olympus*, which stood in his Temple at *Achaia*, between the Cities of *Elis* and *Pisa*; This Statue was much renowned as well for artificial perfections, and admirable Workmanship as for the greatness thereof being no less than sixty Cubits high, composed by that excellent workman *Phidias* of Gold and Ivory, Some say, that *Phidias* was taxed with only one imperfection, that he had not proportioned the Image to the bigness of the Temple, because he had made it sitting and so large, that if the standing upright were considered the Temple would no ways have been able to have contained it; In honour of this *Jupiter* the *Olympick* Games were instituted by *Hercules*, and celebrated on the Plains near this City in the year of the World 2757. The exercises in them were for the most part bodily, as running in Chariots, running on foot, wrestling, fighting with Clubs and the like; But yet there repaired thither Orators, Poets, and Musicians, and all that thought themselves excellent in any laudable quality to make Tryal of their several Abilities, the very cries who proclaimed the Victories contending who should cry loudest, and best play his part; The rewards given to the Victors were only *Garlands of Palm*, or such slight remembrances, and yet the *Greeks* no less esteemed this small sign of Conquest and Honour, than the *Romans* did their most magnificent Triumphs, those who were Conquerors therein were met by the Principal Men of the City wherein they lived, and a Passage was broken through the main Walls of the Town for their Reception, as if the ordinary Gates were not capable of so high an honour, or able to afford them entrance; The Judges of these Games were some Citizens of *Elis* appointed for that purpose; Of these Games *Horace* thus writes,

*Some in Olympick dust take Pride
Their Chariots and themselves to hide,*

Whom

*Whom the won Mark, and Palm so priz'd
Like to the Gods bath Eterniz'd.
Such as like heavenly Angels come
With an Elean Garland home.*

VIII. *The seventh Wonder of the World was The Tower of Pharos, which stood in an Isle of that name near the City of Alexandria in Egypt, a mile distant from the Land, but joyned to the Continent by Cleopatra Queen of Egypt upon this occasion ; The Rhodians then Lords of the Sea, used to exact some Tribute and acknowledgment out of every Island within those Seas, and consequently out of this ; Their Ambassadors being sent to Cleopatra to demand this Tribute, she detained them with her 7 days, under pretence of celebrating some solemn Festivals and in the mean time by making huge dams, and banks in the Sea, with incredible charge and speed, she united Pharos to the shoar, so that it was no longer an Island ; which finished, she sent away the Rhodians empty handed, with this witty jeer, That they were to take Toll of the Islands, but not of the Continent ; A work of great Rarity and magnificence, both for the bigness of it, taking up seven Furlongs of ground, and for that incredible speed wherewith it was finished ; As for the Watch-Tower called Pharos, by the name of the Island, it was built by Ptolemy Philadelphus King of Egypt for the benefit of Saylor, (the Sea on that coast being very unsafe, and full of flats,) to guide them over the Bar of Alexandria, Deservedly esteemed one of the Worlds seven Wonders ; It was of a wonderful height, ascended by degrees, and having many Lanthorns on the top, wherein Lights were burned every night flaming like a Beacon for direction to Seamen ; It was erected of Marble, marvellous in curious Workmanship, and scituate upon a Mountain incompass'd with Water, the chief Workman was Sostratus, who ingraved on the work this Inscription ; Sostratus of Cnidos, the Son of Dexiphanes to the Gods Protector for the Safeguard of*

Saylers; This Inscription he covered with Plaisters and thereon ingraved the name and Title of the King who was the Founder; to the end that the Kings name being soon wasted and washed away, his own which was written in Marble might be eternized to Posterity as the Founder thereof. Nigh unto *Pharos*, *Cæsar* pursuing *Pompey* into *Egypt*, and having discontented *Ptolomy* the King thereof by demanding pay for his Souldiers, *Cæsars* Navy lying here at Anchor, was assaulted by *Achilles* one of young *Ptolomys* Commanders, *Cæsar* himself being then at *Alexandria*, but hearing of the skirmish, he hastned to *Pharos*, resolving to succour his Navy in Person; but the *Egyptians* coming upon him on all sides, he was compelled to leap into the Sea, and swim for his life, and though to avoid their darts he sometime dived, yet he still held his left hand above water, and in it divers books (some say his *Commentaries*) which he carryed safe to his Ships, and encouraging his men, got the Victory; It is said, That *Egypt* hath only two doors, the one by Land, which is the strong Town of *Pelusium*, or *Damiata*, the other by Water, which is this *Pharos*, *Heylins Cosmography*, lib. 3.

IX. Having related *The seven Wonders of the World* I shall now proceed to some other famous Structures, and among them we read of none more magnificent than the Temple of *Solomon*, but that being at large described in the Holy Scriptures in the Books of the *Kings* and *Chronicles*; I shall therefore rather give a description of the City and Temple of *Jerusalem* as they were, when destroyed by the *Romans* aforementioned, *Jerusalem* was compassed with a Treble VVall on every side, save only that part which was inclosed with inaccessible Vallys, for on that side it needed only one VVall; It was built upon two Hills, one opposite to the other, separated by a Valley, which was wonderfully replenished with Houses; One of these Hills whercon stood the upper part of the City, was far higher and steeper than the other, which *K. David* com-

compassing with a VVall, called *The City of David*; On the other Hill, called *Acra*, stood the lower part of the City, opposite whereunto was another Hill lower than that, which at first was divided from it by a large Valley, but when the *Asmonians* reigned, they filled up this Valley, and cut down the top of *Acra*, that it might not hide the Temple; VVithin one of the Valleys was *Siloam* a Fountain sending forth abundance of clear sweet water; The outmost VVall by reason of the Valley about it, and the Rock whereon it stood was impregnable, being strongly built by *David*, *Solomon*, and other Kings; A fourth VVall was begun by *Agrippa*; In humane Reason had this VVall been finished, the City could never have been taken, for the Stones were 20 Cubits long, and 10 Cubits broad, so that it could neither have been easily undermined, nor battered with Engines, but he built this VVall only 10 Cubits high, and then gave it over, fearing lest *Claudius Caesar* should think he designed to rebel. Yet afterward the *Jews* raised this VVall twenty Cubits high, made a battlement two Cubits high, and the Tower three Cubits, in all 24 Cubits high. Besides upon the Wall were three Towers, twenty Cubits broad, and 20 Cubits high, built foursquare very strongly; within these Towers were rooms to dwell in, and Cisterns to receive rain water; The third VVall had ninety of these Towers, and between every Tower were two hundred Cubits space, the second VVall had 14 Towers, and the old VVall had 60, the compass of the whole City being 32 Furlongs.

Between the North and West part of the City upon the outmost Wall stood the Tower *Psephina*, which was raised 70 Cubits high, so that in a clear day one might from thence discover *Arabia*, and the utmost Confines of *Judea*, even to the Sea. Just opposite to this, was the Tower *Hippicon* built by *Herod* upon the old Wall, which for bigness, beauty, and strength, surpassed all others in the World. It had four Corners, each of which was 25 Cubits broad, as many long,

long, and 30 Cubits high; and in no place hollow; On the top was a Well to receive Rain Water 20 Cubits deep; on the top of all were Houses 25 Cubits high, divided into many Rooms; Above them were battlements two Cubits, and Turrets three Cubits high, so that in all it was 85 Cubits high. *Herod* likewise built a second Tower, in breadth, length and height 40 Cubits, in form of a square Pillar all solid, and not hollow within, and above this a Porch 10 Cubits high, adorned with Turrets and Pinnacles; Over the midst of this Porch he built another Tower, distinguished into very handsome rooms, and sumptuous Baths beautified on the top with Turrets and Pinnacles, so that the whole height was near 90 Cubits; Lastly he built a third Tower which he called by his Queens name *Mariamne*, 20 Cubits in height and breadth, all of solid stone, not hollow, having more stately and magnificent Lodgings in it than any of the former, it was in all 55 Cubits high. These Towers though they were very high, yet by reason of their situation they seemed much higher, for the old Wall whereon they were built stood upon a Rock which was 30 Cubits high, whereby their height was much increased, neither were they built of ordinary stone, but all of white Marble, each Stone being 20 Cubits long, 10 broad, and 5 Cubits thick, which were so curiously joyned together, that they seemed to be all but one stone; Within the City was the Kings Palace, surpassing all in the World for largeness, and curious Workmanship; It was environed with a Wall 30 Cubits high, adorned with goodly Towers round about, Beautified with Houses for an hundred of the Nobility. The Variety of the Marble wherewith it was built was admirable, all sorts being therein used though never so scarce to be found; In every room were many Vessels of Gold and Silver, and several Porches round about adorned with most curious Pillars; There were in it very many pleasant Walks, adorned with all manner of Trees, and Gardens beset with Fountains,

tains, which spouted up water on high, and Cistern^s beautified with divers brazen Statues from which ran out water continually.

The Temple was built upon a Rocky Mountain, the Plain on the top whereof was at first scarce big enough for the Temple and Court, the Hill being very steep, but the people every day bringing Earth thither, they at last made it plain and large enough, and with wonderful Curiosity and Labour inclosed the Hill with a Treble Wall, which was not effected in many Ages, with the cost of all the Holy Treasure offered to God from all parts of the World; The Foundations of the Temple were layd three hundred Cubits deep, and in many places more; The stones thereof were 40 Cubits, the Porches were double, supported by many stately Pillars 25 Cubits high, all of one piece of white Marble, the tops of them were of Cedar so exactly wrought, as astonished the Beholders; These Porches were 30 Cubits broad, and the compass of all was six Furlongs, The Courts were curiously wrought, and paved with all sorts of stones. The way to the inward Temple was all inclosed with stones wrought like Lattice work which were 3 Cubits high of Curious Workmanship; To this there was an ascent by 14 steps, and above it, was foursquare, and inclosed with a Wall by it self, 40 Cubits high on the outside, and all covered with stairs to ascend up to it, and within it was 25 Cubits high, At the top of the 14 stairs within the Wall, was a level compassed with a Wall of 300 Cubits which had Gates in it, and between the Gates were Porches opposite to each other, reaching from the Wall to the Treasury, supported with mighty Pillars, All the Gates were covered with Plates of Gold and Silver, only one was covered with *Corinthian* Brass, which for beauty far excelled the other, dazling and surprizing the Eyes of the Spectators, In every Gate were two Doors each of them 30 Cubits high, and 15 broad, and on each side they had seats 30 Cubits long, and 40 in height, each of them

them supported with 2 Pillars, 12 Cubits thick, only the Gate which was covered with *Corinthian* Brass was 40 Cubits high, and the Gates 40, more richly adorned than the rest; Lastly the *Holy of Holies*, or *Sanctum Sanctorum* was situate in the midst of all, and had 12 stairs to go up to it, the fore-part of it was an hundred Cubits high, and as many broad; backward it was 40 Cubits, on each side it had as it were two shoulders, rising up in height 20 Cubits; The first Gate was 20 Cubits high, and 25 wide, and had no doors, to shew, *That Heaven was always open*, &c. All the fore parts were gilded, and all within was covered with fine gold; The inward part was divided into 2 rooms, whereof the first only might be seen, which was in height 50 Cubits, in length 40, and in breadth 20. Round about the Wall was a golden Vine, whereon hung many Grapes in Clusters all of Gold, every cluster being about six foot long; It had golden Gates 55 Cubits high, and 16 broad; It had curious hangings of the same length, admirably wrought with purple, violet, and scarlet silk, all the Fabrick was so exquisitely and richly wrought, that none could possibly imagine any Workmanship it wanted; For it was all covered with a massy plate of pure Gold which astonished the Beholders; The top was all set with Rods of Gold, sharp like Pikes at the ends, lest Birds should sit thereon and defile it, The stones wherewith it was built were 45 Cubits in length, six broad, and as many thick; *Josephus Hist. lib. 6.*

Jerusalem was a principal City in *Josua's* time, when *Abimelech* was King, who was slain by him, yet did the *Philistines* hold it almost four hundred years after, till *David* won it, though the Inhabitants did so much rely on the place, that they boasted their lame and blind men should defend it. 2 *Sam. 5. 6.* *David* having conquered it, strengthened it with a Castle, and beautified it with many Palaces. And after his time, *Solomon* enlarged, and further beautified, and fortified

it extreamly. The Pallaces, Gates and Walls could not be matched in all the World ; it had an hundred and fifty thousand Inhabitants besides Women and Children ; The Trench about it was sixty foot deep, cut out of the Rock, and 250 foot broad, the like scarce ever heard of ; Not long after, *Shishak* King

Egypt took and sackt it, and became Master not only of *Solomons* riches, but of all *K. Davids* spoils which he had taken from many Nations. 2 *Kings* 14. It was again plundred, and part of the Wall broken down by *Jons* King of *Israel* in *Amazias*'s Reign. 2 *Kings* 16. Not long after *Ahaz* the fifteenth K. of *Juda* impoverished the Temple, to present *Tiglathpilsener* with the Treasures thereof, and *Manasses* lost what remained.

1 *Chron* 5. And *Nebuchadnezzar* laid this glorious City with the Temple, Pallaces, Walls and Towers thereof, even to the Ground. 2 *Kings* 19. It was built again by *Nehemiah*, *Chap.* 12. 34. and again the Temple and City were spoiled by *Bugoses* Lieutenant to *Artaxerxes*, Then by *Ptolomeus* the First ; Then by *Antiochus* *Epiphanes* ; And again by *Apollonius* his Deputy ; After which it was taken by *Pompey*, and robbed by *Crassus* in his *Parthian* Expedition ; yet all the losses that the Temple and City sustained, were repaired by *Herod the Great*, who enlarged the City, new built the Temple, and adorned it with many sumptuous Works, and left it in a more stately and glorious condition than it was in the days of *Solomon*. Lastly about 40 years after the Death of *Christ*, the sins of the *Jews* being come to the height, it was destroyed by *Titus* the Roman General, who made it so desolate, that they which saw it afterward, could scarce believe there had ever been such a City in that place, only he left the 3 *Herodian* Towers, as well for Lodgings for the Roman Garrisons, as to make his Victory more glorious ; yet afterwards some of the despised *Jews* began to build and inhabit some part of the City ; but after 65 years, as aforementioned, when they began to revolt again *Elmus Adrianus* the Emperor slew many Thousands

of them, and overthrew the three Towers of *Herod* with all the rest, not leaving stone upon another as our Saviour had foretold; But when his fury was appeased, he took one part without the VVall, wherein stood Mount *Calvery* and Christs Sepulcher, and made it a capacious City, which he called after his own name *Ælia Capitolia*; And in the Gate toward *Bethel*, he caused a Sow to be cut in Marble, and set it in the Front to despise the *Jews*, making an Edict, That thenceforth none of them should ever enter into that City, not dare so much as to behold, or look toward it from any high place; Yet the Christian Religion flourishing in *Palestine*, it was inhabited by all Nations, especially Christians, and so it continued five hundred years; And in 639 it was taken by the *Egyptian Saracens*, who held it above four hundred years. In 1099 it was regained by *Godfrey of Bullein*, who being elected King, refused to be crowned with a Crown of Gold, since Christ for whom he fought, was there crowned with Thorns; It continued to him and his Successors for 88 years, till in 1197 it was retaken by *Saladine King of Ægypt*, and lastly in 1517. the Turks beat out the *Ægyptians*, and hold it to this day, calling it in their Language *Cuzumbarec*, or *The Holy City*; *Rawleighs Hist. World.*

X. The City of *Nineveh* as it was more ancient than almost any other City, so in greatness it excelled all those that were famous in old time. The Plot or ground of it is said to be four hundred and eighty Furlongs; The Walls were in height one hundred foot, and the breadth of them such, that three Chariots might meet on the top of them; On the Walls there were Fifteen Hundred Towers, each of them Two Hundred Foot high, it was called *Tetrapolis*, as being divided as it were into four Cities, *Nineveh, Resena, Fornm, and Gale*, and was reckoned three days Journey in the time of *Jonas* the Prophet.

11. The Capitol of *Rome* seated on the *Tarpeian* Rock seemed to contend with Heaven in height, and no doubt but the length and depth were every way answerable; The excessive charge that the Emperor *Domitian* was at in building it, *Martial* after his flattering manner hath wittily described, and which may be thus translated.

*So much has Caesar given the Gods above
That should he call it in, and Creditor prove
Though Jove should barter Heaven it self away
This mighty debt he never could repay.*

We may partly give a guess at the Riches and Ornaments of it by this, that there was spent only upon its gilding above Twelve Thousand Talents; It was all guilded over, not the inner roof only, but the outward covering which was of brass or Copper, and the doors of it were overlay'd with thick Plates of Gold, which remained to the Reign of *Honorius*. After the great overthrow of the *Romans* by the *Gauls* near the River *Allia*, those that escaped fled to *Rome* for security, filling all the City with trouble and fear, but the People not judging themselves safe there, got all away out of the Town, only a small number of the most resolute put themselves into the Capitol, resolving to indure all extremities; The rest escaped to the City of *Veios*, where assembling together, they chose *Furius Camillus* (whom some time before they had disobliged) to be their Dictator, but he would not accept of the Dignity unless the Senators in the Capitol gave their Legal consent thereunto; This was very difficult, because the *Gauls* had environed it round about with their Troops, yet one *Pontius* undertook this dangerous enterprize, and coming to the River *Tyber*, he swam over upon a piece of broad Cork, and landing on the other side, he went softly, that way where he saw no light, and therefore supposed there was no watch kept, and so climbing up the steep craggy

craggy rocks, he with much ado got to the top where being espied by the *Roman* Centinels they assisted him, and brought him to the Senators, who received his Message, and immediately dispatched him with an answer, so that he returned back to *Camillus* the same night; Next day one of the *Gauls* walking about that place, chanced to espy the prints and footsteps of a man upon the Rocks and Grass which grew thereon; this he discovered to his Fellows, who thinking the *Romans* had now shew'd them the way, they took the opportunity of a dark night and ascended the Hill the same way without being discovered either by the Men, or the Dogs who both kept guard there; but were now all fast asleep; But it was the good fortune of the *Romans* that there were certain Geese, dedicated to *Juno*, and kept at the Publick Charge near her Temple, they being fearful by nature, and easily affrighted by the least noise in the night, and being also kept very hungry by reason of the scarcity in the *Capitol*, may be supposed to have slept the more lightly, so that perceiving the Enemies with their glittering Armour, they flew against them, and filled the whole place with a fearful and unusual cry, which awakened the *Romans* who suspecting the matter. ran presently to the wall, and beat back their Enemies, throwing them down headlong, by which unusual means the *Capitol* was saved, all the *Gauls* being forced to hasten off, or to leave their dead bodies at the foot of the Hill they had newly climbed; In remembrance whereof, for a great while after, upon one day in the year they carried about in Procession a Dog hanged on a Gallows, and a Goose sitting in a little chair of state upon a rich and sumptuous Cushion. *Camerarius Medit.*

12. *Suetonius* thus describes that house of *Nero*, which *Nero* himself called *Domum Auream*; The Golden House; In the Porch was set a *Colossus*, or Image shaped like himself, of one hundred and Twenty foot high; The spaciousness of the House was such, that it had in

it three Galleries each of them a mile long, a standing Pool like a Sea, beset with buildings in manner of a City; Feilds in which were arable grounds, Pastures, Vineyards and Woods, with a various multitude of tame and wild Beasts of all kinds; In the other part thereof all things were covered with gold, and distinguished with precious stones, as Mother of Pearl, &c. The Supping Rooms were roofed with Ivory planks that were moveable, for the casting down of Flowers; and had Pipes in them for the sprinkling of Ointments; The Roof of the Principal Supping Room was round, which like the Heavens wheeled about perpetually day and night; This House when he had thus finished and dedicated, he so mightily approved of that he said, *He then began to live like a Man. Suetonius Hist. Lib. 6.*

XIII. The Amphitheatre begun by *Vespasian*, but finished and dedicated by *Titus* was most famous, the height whereof was such, that (saith *Marcellinus*) the Eye of man could hardly reach it; It was built and reared up (saith *Cassiodorus*) with Rivers of Treasure poured out; It contained only upon the Steps and Degrees sufficient and easie Seats for fourscore and seven Thousand Persons, so as the vacant Places besides, might well contain Ten or Twenty Thousand more; And it is admirable to consider (saith the L. *Montaign* in his Essays) what mighty magnificence the Roman Emperors used in their Theaters, It was wonderful (saith he) to cause a great quantity of large Trees all full of green branches to be brought from far, and planted in Plots yeilding nothing but dry gravel, representing a wild shady Forrest, divided in due and seemly proportion; And the first day to put into the Theatre a Thousand Estriges, a Thousand Stags, a Thousand Wild Boars, and a Thousand Bucks, which were hunted and baited by the common people; The next day in the presence of all the People, an hundred great Lyons, an hundred Leopards, and three hundred huge Bears were baited and torn to peices; The third day three hundred couple of *Gladiators* or Fenc-

Fencers combated, and murdered one another, as in the Reign of the Emperor *Probus*; It was also an excellent sight to see those huge wondrous Amphitheatres all incased with rich Marble, and curiously enriched on the outside with carved statues, and all the inside glistering with precious and rare Imbellishments; All the sides round about were invironed and replenished from the ground to the very top, with three or fourscore ranks of steps and seats all of Marble, covered with gallant Cushions, where might be conveniently placed an hundred thousand men, and all sit at ease; The plain groundwork of it where Sports were acted, were so ordered by Art, as to open asunder with holes, and gaps like hollow Caves, out of which issued wild Beasts appointed for the Plays; After which, the whole floor of the Theatre was immediately overflowed with a very deep Sea, wherein were all manner of strange Fishes, and Sea Monsters, with a great Navy of Ships ready rigged, and provided for a Sea-fight; In an Instant all was dry and smooth again, and the Fencers entred and fought with each other; Lastly to compleat the last Act of one day only, the whole floor was forthwith cleansed, and strowed over with Vermilion and Scorax instead of Gravel, and a solemn banquet brought forth enough to entertain that almost infinite number of People; they have sometimes caused an huge steep Mountain to arise in the midst of the *Amphitheatre*, all overspread with fruitful, and flourishing Trees of all sorts, on the top whereof gushed out streams of water as from a Fountain; Other times they have brought forth a great tall Ship, floating up and down, which opened and split asunder of it self, from whence issued out four or five hundred wild Beasts to be baited; and then closing again, it vanished away without any visible help; sometimes they caused water to spout gently from the bottom of the Theatre, which bubbling up to the very top, sprinkled and refreshed that vast multitude; And to preserve themselves from
the

the violence of the weather, they caused that huge compass to be overspread sometimes with purple Sails, all curiously wrought with the Needle, sometimes of Silk and other colours, all which was done in the twinkling of an Eye, either to spread or draw it back again; The Nets likewise which they used to put before the people to save them from the danger of the wild baited Beasts, were all woven of Gold Thred. *Montaigns Essays. lib. 3.*

XIV. The Bridge of *Caligula* was a new and unheard of Spectacle, it reached from *Puteoli* to *Bauli*; three miles and a quarter, he built it upon Ships in a few days; Over this he marched with the Senate and Souldiery in a Triumphant manner, and in the view of the People; Upon this he feasted, and passed the night in dalliance and Gaming; A Marvellous and great work indeed, but such as the vanity thereof deprived it of Commendation, for to what end was it raised but to be demolished? Thus sported he, (saith *Seneca*) with the Power of the Empire, and all in imitation of *Xerxes* a Foreign Frantick, unfortunate and proud King, *Hakerwels Apology.*

XV. *Wales* anciently extended it self Eastward to the River *Severn*, till by the valour of *Offa* the great King of the *Mercians*, the *Welch* or *Brittains* were driven out of the plain Countrey beyond that River, and forced to betake themselves to the Mountains, where he caused them to be shut up, and divided from *England* with an huge Ditch called *Offa's Dike*, which began where the River *Wie* comes into the *Severn* not far from *Chepstow*, and extended fourscore and four miles in length, even as far as *Chester*, where the River *Dee* is mingled with the Sea; which was a very stupendious work; Concerning this Ditch, there was a Law made by *K. Harold*, That if any *Welshman* was found with a Weapon on this side of it, he should have his right hand cut off by the Kings Officers; *Heylins Cosmography.*

XVI. *China* is bounden on the North with *Altay* and the *Eastern Tartars*, from which it is separated by

222 *The Surprizing Miracles of Art*

a continued Chain of Hills, and where that Chain is broken off, with a great Wall of four hundred Leagues, or Twelve hundred *English* miles in length; It was built (as they say) by *Zaintor* the 117 King thereof, it was six fathom high, and 12 yards thick, and was twenty seven years in building by the continued labour of seven Millions, and Fifty Thousand men: *Herberts Travels*.

XVII. *Ptolomeus Philopater* built a Ship (saith *Pancivollus*) that the like was never seen before nor since; It was two hundred and eighty Cubits in length, fifty two Cubits in height from the bottom to the upper Decks; It had four hundred Banks, or Seats for Rowers, four hundred Marriners, and four thousand Rovers; And on the Decks it could contain Three Thousand Souldiers, There were also Gardens and Orchards on the top of it, as *Plutarch* relates in the life of *Demetrius*.

XVIII. The *Escurial* or Monastery of *St. Lawrence* in *New Castile* in *Spain* was built by *K. Philip 2.* A place of such Magnificence that no building in times past, or the present is comparable to it; The Front toward the West is adorned with three stately Gates, the middlemost whereof leadeth into a most magnificent Temple, or Monastery, wherein were one hundred Monks of the Order of *St. Jerom*, and a Colledge; the Gate on the right hand openeth into divers Offices belonging to the Monastery that on the left hand to the Schools and outhouses belonging to the Colledge; At the four Corners are four Turrets of excellent Workmanship, and for height Majestical; Towards the North is the Kings Pallace, on the South part are divers beautiful and Sumptuous Gallerys, and on the East side several Gardens and Walks very pleasant and delectable; It containeth in all eleven several Quadrangles, every one incloistered, and is indeed so brave a Structure, that a Voyage to *Spain* were well employed, were it only to see it and return. *Heylins Cosmography*.

Advertisements.

There are lately published by R. Burton five very useful, pleasant and necessary books. which are all sold by N. Crouch.

I. **E**xtraordinary Adventures of several Famous Men; with the strange Events, and many signal Mutations and Changes in the Fortunes of many Illustrious Places and Persons in all Ages; Being an account of a Multitude of Stupendious Revolutions, Accidents and Observable matters in many Kingdoms, States, and Provinces throughout the whole World, Namely, The Adventures of Christoph. Columbus, and the manner of his Discovery of America, or the New World: How Bajazet Emp. of the Turks was carried about in an Iron Cage by the Emp. Tamerlane. The Cruelties used by the Turks upon the Christians at Argiers, their manner of selling Slaves, &c. The Travels of an English Man into Barbary and Morocco, with the Rarities thereof, and of the Villany of the English Renegadoes. The dreadful Mutiny in the City of Naples, about their Privileges in 1647, and how Massanello a Fisher-boy ruled there for 10 days, with greater Power than any King or Emperour: An Account of several Nations destroyed, or driven from their Habitations by Gnats, Moles, Pismires, Sparrows, Locusts, Hares, Conies, Fleas, Frogs, Mice, Grasshoppers, Serpents, Worms, and other inconsiderable Creatures; The Tragical Deaths of John and Cornelius de Wit, at the Hague in Holland. The strange Revolution in Portugal, in 1640. The woful Deaths of the Emp. of China his Wife and Daughter in 1640, Remarks on the Life and Death of Sir W. Rawleigh, with his last Speech and Behaviour on the Scaffold; with abundance of other Remarkable Instances of various kinds; some of them being lively described in Picture for their better Illustration.

Price One Shilling.

II. **A**dmirable Curiosities, Rarities, and Wonders in England, Scotland and Ireland, or an account of many remarkable persons and places, and likewise of the battels, sieges, prodigious Earthquakes, tempests, inundations, thunders, lightnings, fires, murders, and other considerable occurrences and accidents for many hundred years past, and among others:

The

Books sold by Nath. Crouch.

The Preaching of K. Hen. 3. to the Monks at Winchester: The manner of the horrid murder of King Edward 2. The battle of Bosworth, and the miserable death of Crook-backt Richard. The beheading of the L. Cromwel, and the E. of Essex, with their last Speeches. The Rebellion of the Papists in Cornwall, &c. against the Common Prayer in King Edw. 6. time, and the K. letter to them. The Rebellion under Kett the Tanner, and his Laws, Ordinances in the Oak of Reformation near Norwich. The Association in Q. Eliz. time. The proceedings against Mary Q. of Scots, Mother to K. James, with her last words on the Scaffold. The Lady riding naked through Coventry. Together with the natural and artificial rarities in every County in Eng. and very many other observable matters, with several curious Sculptures Price one Shilling.

III. **W**onderful prodigies of judgment and mercy, discovered in above 300 memorab^le Histories, containing 1. Dreadful judgments upon Atheists, blasphemers, perjured villains, &c. As of several forsworn wretches carried away by the Devil, and how an horrid blasphemer was turned into a black dog &c. 2. The miserable ends of many magicians, witches, conjurers, &c. with divers strange apparitions and illusions of the Devil; 3. Remarkable predictions, and presages of approaching death, and how the event has been answerable, with an account of some Appeals to Heaven against Unjust Judges, and what vengeance hath fallen upon them. 4. The wicked lives and woful deaths of several Popes, Apostates and Persecutors; with the manner how K. Hen. 2. was whipt by the Popes Order by the Monks of Canterbury; and how the Q. of Bohemia, a desperate Persecutor of the Christians, was swallow'd up in the Earth alive, with all her followers, &c. 5. Fearful Judgments upon bloody Tyrants, Murderers, &c. with the terrible Cruelties used by those monsters of men, Nero, Heliogabalus, Domitian, and others upon the Christians; also how Popiel, K. of Poland, (a Cruel Tyrant,) his Q. and Child, were devour'd by Rats; and how a Town near Tripoly in Barbary, with the Men, Women, children, Beasts, Trees, Walls, Rooms, Cats, Dogs, Mice, and all that belonged to the place, were turn'd into perfect Stone, (to be seen at this day) for the horrid crimes of the Inhabitants;

Books sold by Nath. Crouch.

habitants; also the wonderful discovery of several Murders, &c.
 6. Admirable Deliverances from imminent Dangers, and Deplo-
 rable Distresses at Sea and Land. Lastly, Divine Goodness to
 Penitents, with the dying Thoughts of several famous Men,
 concerning a future state after this life, as S. Austin, the Emp.
 Ch. 5. Philip 3. K. of Spain. The E. of North. Gallea-
 cius. H. Grotius Salmasius. Sr. F. Walsingh. Sr. P. Syd. Sr. H.
 Wotton. A. B. Usher E. of Rochest. L. C. J. Hales, and others;
 Imbellished with divers Pictures. Price One Shilling.

IV. **H**ISTORICAL Remarks and Observations of the Ancient &
 present State of London and Westminster, shew-
 ing the foundations, Wall, Gates, Towers, Bridges, Churches, Ri-
 vers, Wards, Halls, Companies, Government, Courts, Hospitals,
 Schools, Inns of Court, Charters, Franchises, and Priviledges
 thereof; with an account of the most remarkable Accidents, as
 to Wars, Fires, Plagues, and other occurrences, for above 900
 years past, in and about these Cities; and among other particu-
 lars, the poisoning of K. John by a Monk. The Rebellion of
 Wat Tyler, who was slain by the Lord Mayor in Smith-
 field, and the speech of Jack Straw at his Execution; The
 Murder of K. Hen. 6. and likewise of Edw. 5. and his Brother,
 by Rich. 3. called Crook-back. The Execution of Empson and
 Dudley; the Insurrection in London in K. Hen. 8. time, and
 how 411 Men & Women went through the City in their Shifts
 & Ropes about their Necks to Westm. Hall. where they were
 pardoned by the King: With several other Remarques in all the
 Kings and Queens Reigns to this Year 1681. And a description
 of the manner of the Trial of the late L. Stafford in West. Hall;
 Illustrated with Pictures, with the Arms of the 65 Compa-
 nies of London, and the time of their Incorporating. Price
 one Shilling.

V. **T**HE 4th. Edition of the Wars in England, Scotland,
 and Ireland, being near a 3d. part enlarged with
 very considerable Additions, containing an impartial Account of
 all the Battles, Sieges, and other remarkable Transactions, Re-
 volutions and Accidents which have happened from the begin-
 ning of the Reign of K. Ch. 1. 1625. to His Majesties happy
 Restoration, 1660. And among other particulars, The Debates
 and Proceedings in the 4th. Parliament of Charles 1. The mur-
 der

Books sold by Nath. Crouch.

der of the D. of Buck. by Felt. The Tumults at Edenb. in Scotl. upon reading the Common Prayer. The Insurrection of the Apprentices and Seamen, and their assaulting of A.B.L's House at Lamb. Remarks on the Trial of the E. of Strafford and his last Speech. The horrid and bloody Rebellion of the Papists in Ireland and their murdering above 200000 in 1641. The Death of Arch-Bishop Laud. Mr. Chaloner and Tomkins, Sir J. Hotham, Sir Alex. Carew, Duke Hamilton, E. of Holland, L. Capel, M. Love, M. Gibbons, Sr. H. Slingsby, Dr. Hewet, and others. The Treaties and Propositions at Uxbridge and Newp. in the Isle Wight. The Illegal Trial of K. Ch. 1. at large with his last speech at his suffering. His Majest. Reasons against the pretended Jurisdiction of the H. C. of Justice; With the most considerable matters which happened till 1650. And the K. most Gracious Declaration from Breda. with Pictures of several Remarkable Accidents. Price one Shilling.

THE Young Mans Calling, or the whole Duty of Youth, in a serious and compassionate Address to all young Persons to remember their Creator in the days of their Youth. Together with Remarks upon the Lives of several excellent Young Persons of both Sexes, as well ancient as modern, who have been famous for Virtue and Piety in their Generations, namely, On the Lives of Isaac and Joseph in their youth; On the Martyrdom of the 7 Sons and their Mother, and of Romanus a Young Noble-Man, with the invincible courage of a Child of 7 years old, who was martyred. On the Martyrdom of divers holy Virgins and Martyrs. On the Life of that blessed Prince King Edw. 6. with his earnest Zeal for the Protestant Religion, and his ingenious Letters to his Godfather, A. B. Cranmer, when but 8 years old, with his last words and Prayer against Popery. On the Life and Death of Q. Jane, as her learned Dispute with Fecknam a Priest, about the Sacrament, her Letters to her Father the D. of Suffolk, to her Sister, and to Harding an Apostate Protestant. On the Life of Q. Eliz. in her Youth, with her many sufferings and dangers from bloody Bonner and Gardiner, and her joyful Reception to the Crown. On the Religious Life and Death of the most noble and Heroick P. Henry eldest Son to K. James; And also of the young L. Harrington; &c. With 12 curious Pictures illustrating the several Histories. Price Eighteen Pence.

All six sold by Nath. Crouch. FINIS.

oil.
Ap-
e at
last
s in
The
ins,
Hol-
He-
and
arge
uinst
the
e K.
eral

uth,
ung
uth.
llent
ambo
ons,
th;
Ro-
of a
n of
ssed
lant
B.
ay-
her
ent,
d to
her
on-
On
P.
lar-
e si-